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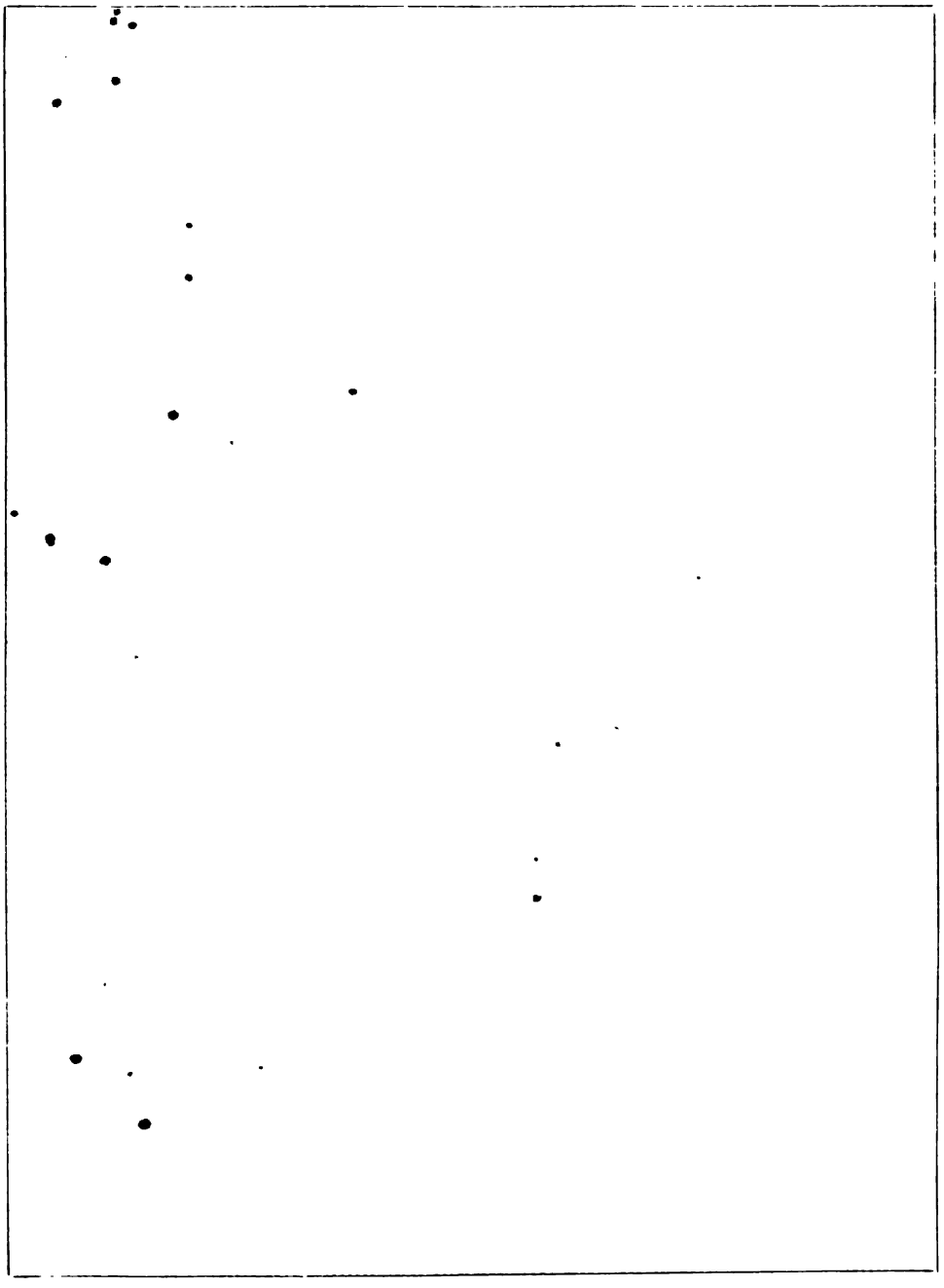

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ACTING CHAPLAIN TO THE FORCES, CYPRUS.

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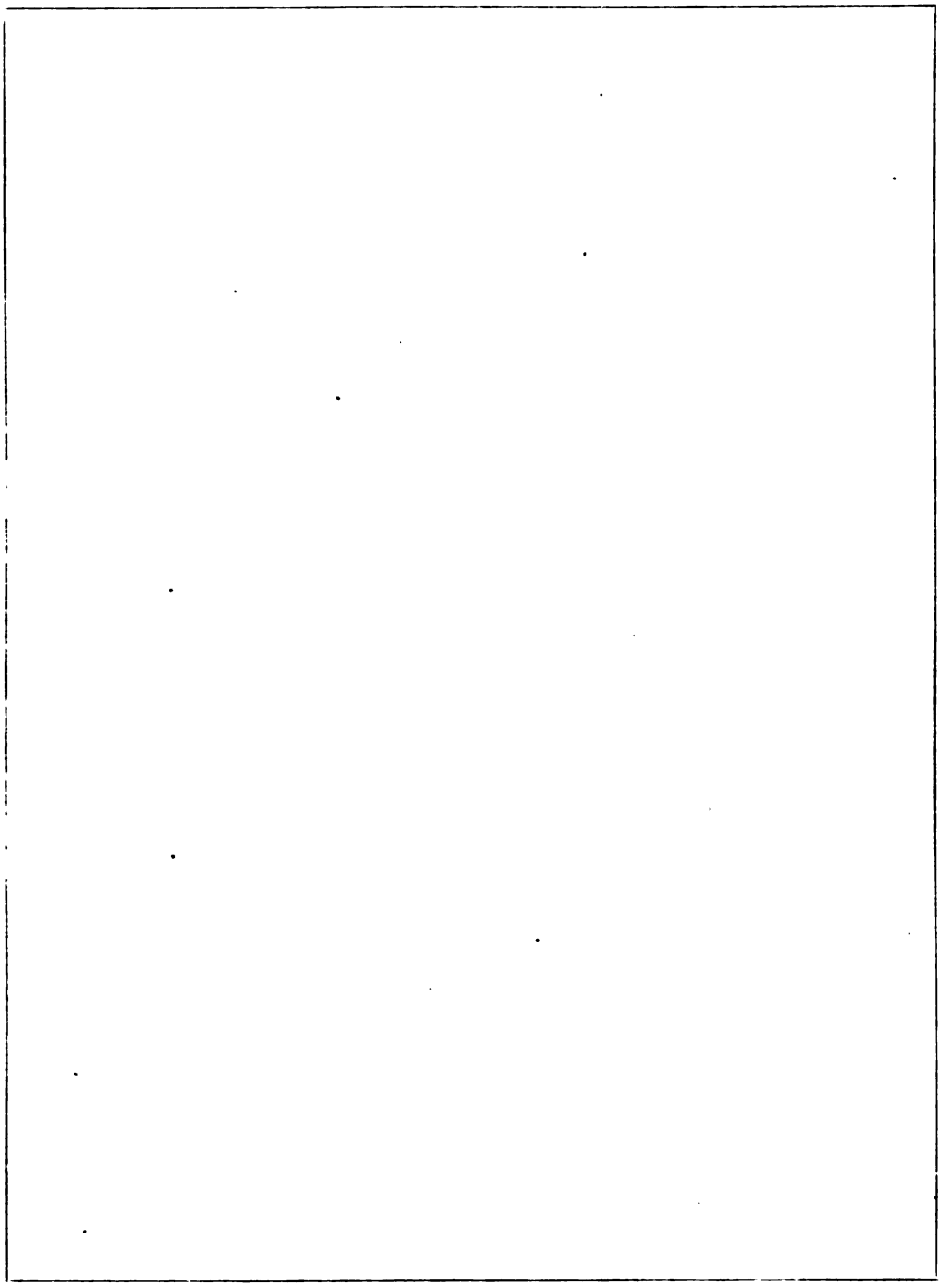

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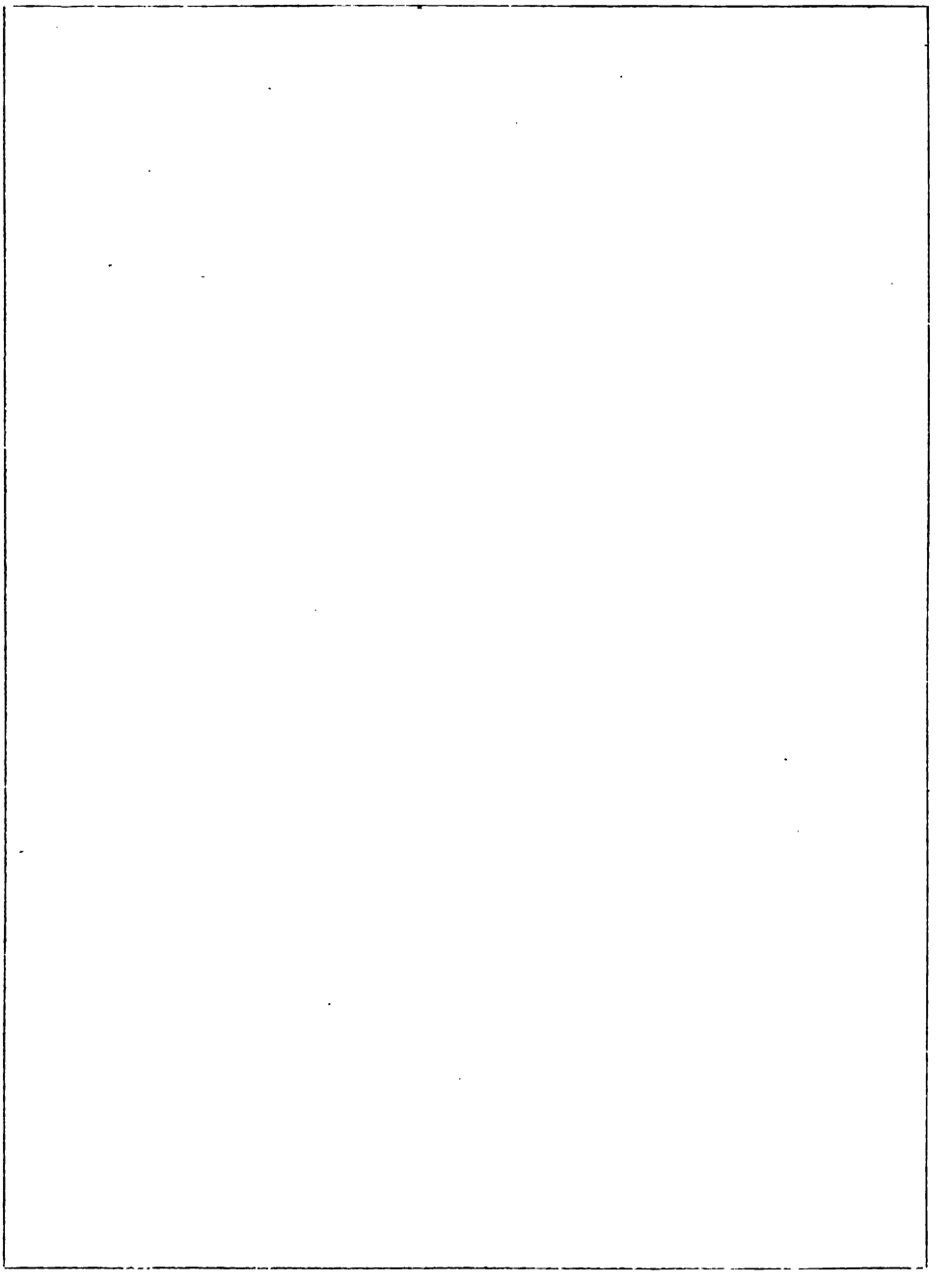

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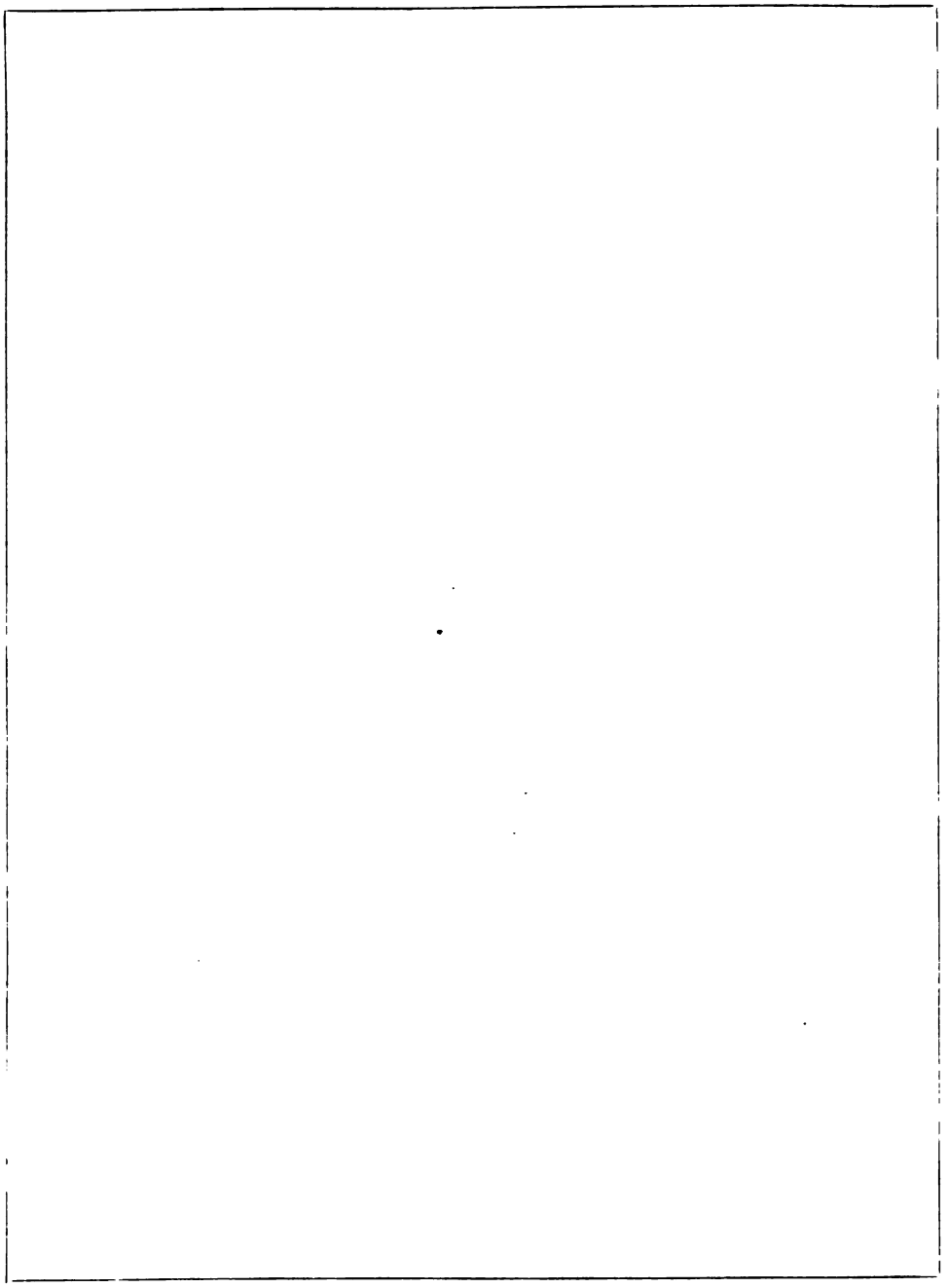

PEDIGREE

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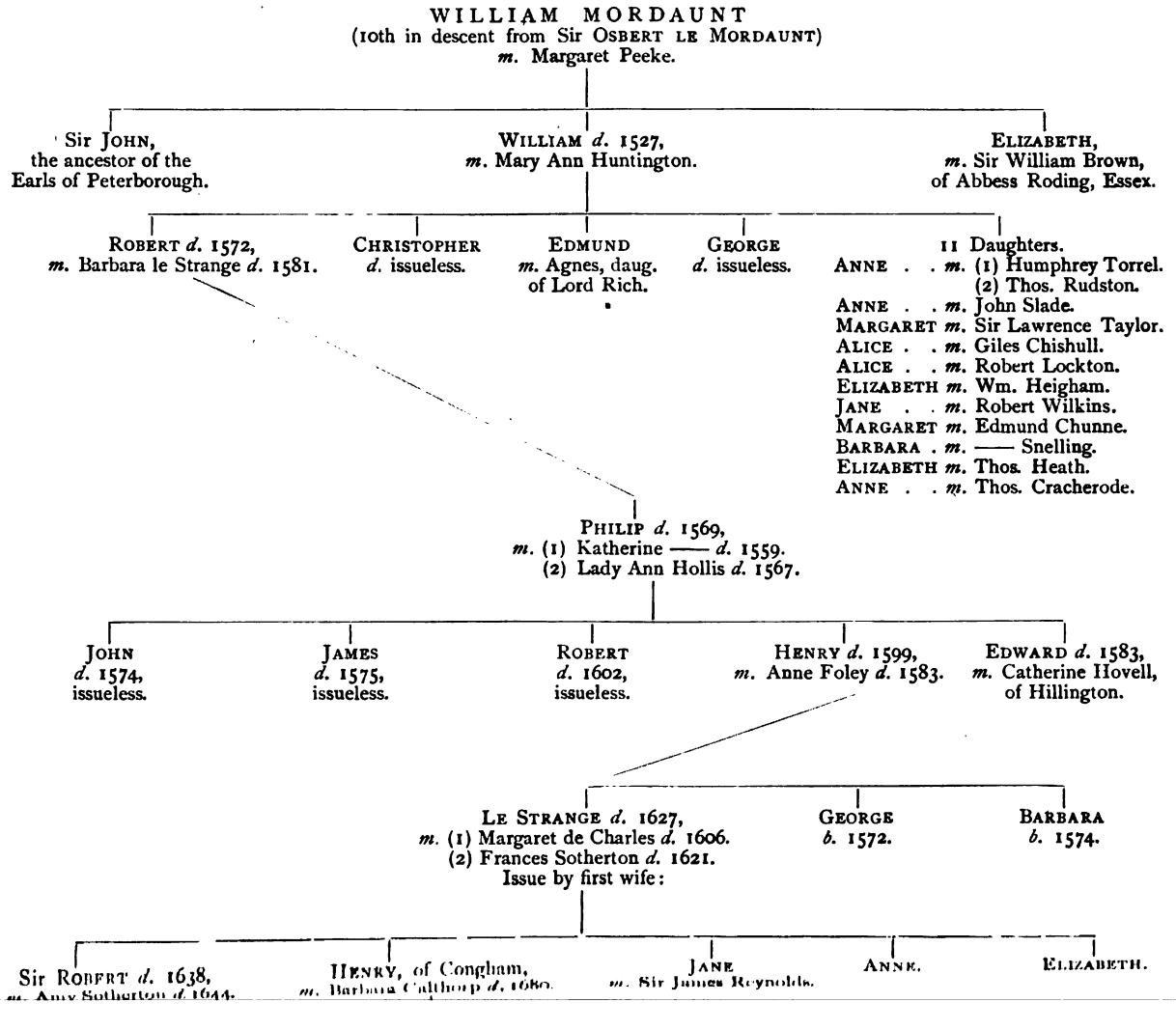
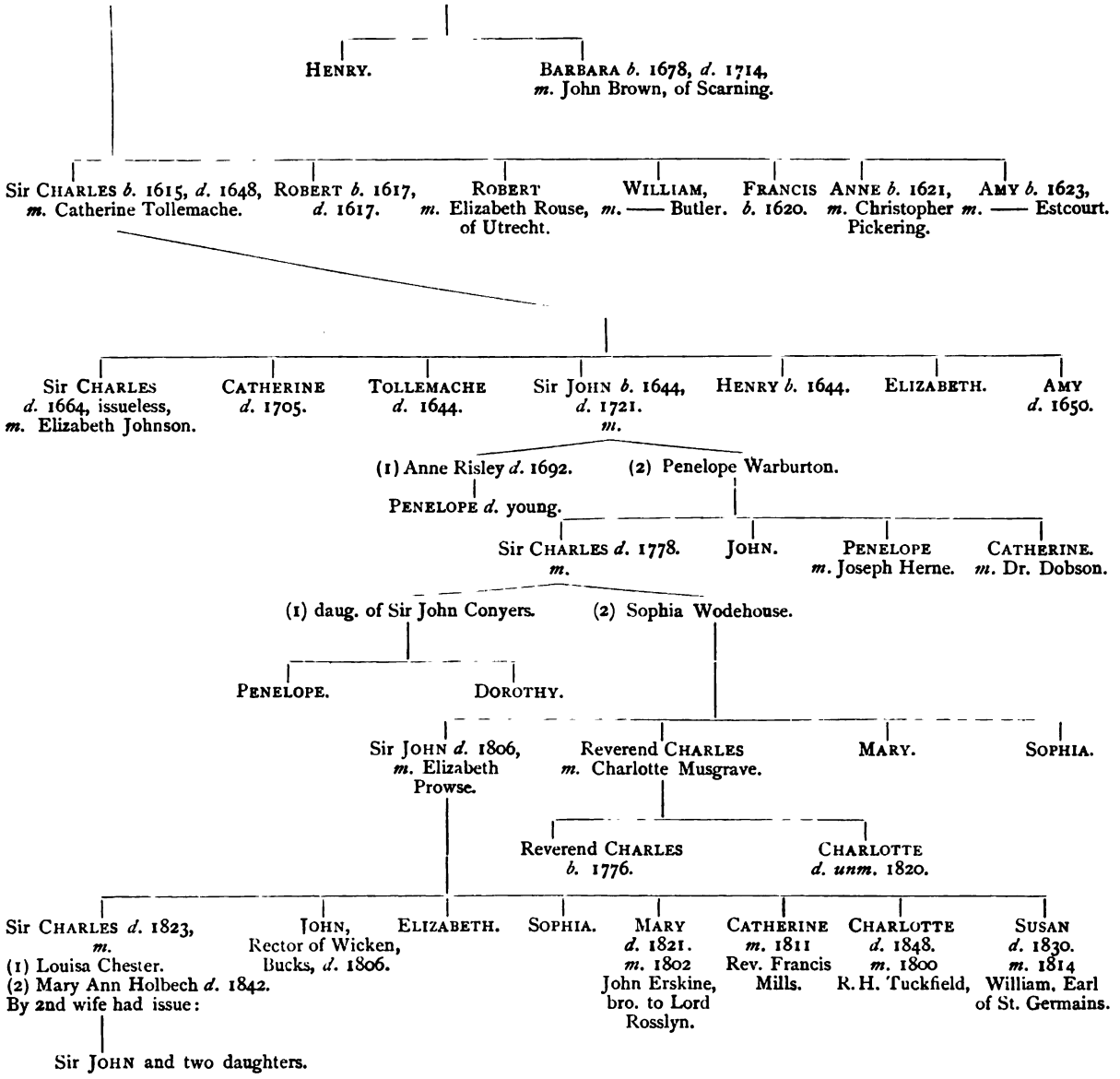
PEDIGREE OF THE MORDAUNTS OF MASSINGHAM PARVA.


WILLIAM MORDAUNT
(10th in descent from Sir OSBERT LE MORDAUNT)
m. Margaret Peeke.
Sir JOHN, the ancestor of the Earls of Peterborough.
WILLIAM d. 1527, m. Mary Ann Huntington.
ELIZABETH, m. Sir William Brown, of Abbess Roding, Essex.
ROBERT d. 1572, m. Barbara le Strange d. 1581.
CHRISTOPHER d. issueless.
EDMUND m. Agnes, daug. of Lord Rich.
GEORGE d. issueless.
11 Daughters.
ANNE . . m. (1) Humphrey Torrel. (2) Thos. Rudston.
ANNE . . m. John Slade.
MARGARET m. Sir Lawrence Taylor.
ALICE . . m. Giles Chishull.
ALICE . . m. Robert Lockton.
ELIZABETH m. Wm. Heigham.
JANE . . m. Robert Wilkins.
MARGARET m. Edmund Chunne.
BARBARA . m. —— Snelling.
ELIZABETH m. Thos. Heath.
ANNE . . m. Thos. Cracherode.
PHILIP d. 1569, m. (1) Katherine —— d. 1559. (2) Lady Ann Hollis d. 1567.
JOHN d. 1574, issueless.
JAMES d. 1575, issueless.
ROBERT d. 1602, issueless.
HENRY d. 1599, m. Anne Foley d. 1583.
EDWARD d. 1583, m. Catherine Hovell, of Hillington.
LE STRANGE d. 1627, m. (1) Margaret de Charles d. 1606. (2) Frances Sotherton d. 1621. Issue by first wife:
GEORGE b. 1572.
BARBARA b. 1574.
Sir ROBERT d. 1638,
HENRY, of Congham,
JANE m. Sir James Reynolds.
ANNE.
ELIZABETH.


HENRY.
BARBARA b. 1678, d. 1714, m. John Brown, of Scarning.
Sir CHARLES b. 1615, d. 1648, m. Catherine Tollemache.
ROBERT b. 1617, d. 1617.
ROBERT m. Elizabeth Rouse, of Utrecht.
WILLIAM, m. —— Butler.
FRANCIS b. 1620.
ANNE b. 1621, m. Christopher Pickering.
AMY b. 1623, m. —— Estcourt.
Sir CHARLES d. 1664, issueless, m. Elizabeth Johnson.
CATHERINE d. 1705.
TOLLEMACHE d. 1644.
Sir JOHN b. 1644, d. 1721. m.
HENRY b. 1644.
ELIZABETH.
AMY d. 1650.
(1) Anne Risley d. 1692.
(2) Penelope Warburton.
PENELOPE d. young.
Sir CHARLES d. 1778. m.
JOHN.
PENELOPE m. Joseph Herne.
CATHERINE. m. Dr. Dobson.
(1) daug. of Sir John Conyers.
(2) Sophia Wodehouse.
PENELOPE.
DOROTHY.
Sir JOHN d. 1806, m. Elizabeth Prowse.
Reverend CHARLES m. Charlotte Musgrave.
MARY.
SOPHIA.
Reverend CHARLES b. 1776.
CHARLOTTE d. unm. 1820.
Sir CHARLES d. 1823, m. (1) Louisa Chester. (2) Mary Ann Holbech d. 1842. By 2nd wife had issue:
Sir JOHN and two daughters.
JOHN, Rector of Wicken, Bucks, d. 1806.
ELIZABETH.
SOPHIA.
MARY d. 1821. m. 1802 John Erskine, bro. to Lord Rosslyn.
CATHERINE m. 1811 Rev. Francis Mills.
CHARLOTTE d. 1848. m. 1800 R. H. Tuckfield,
SUSAN d. 1830. m. 1814 William, Earl of St. Germains.

THE HISTORY

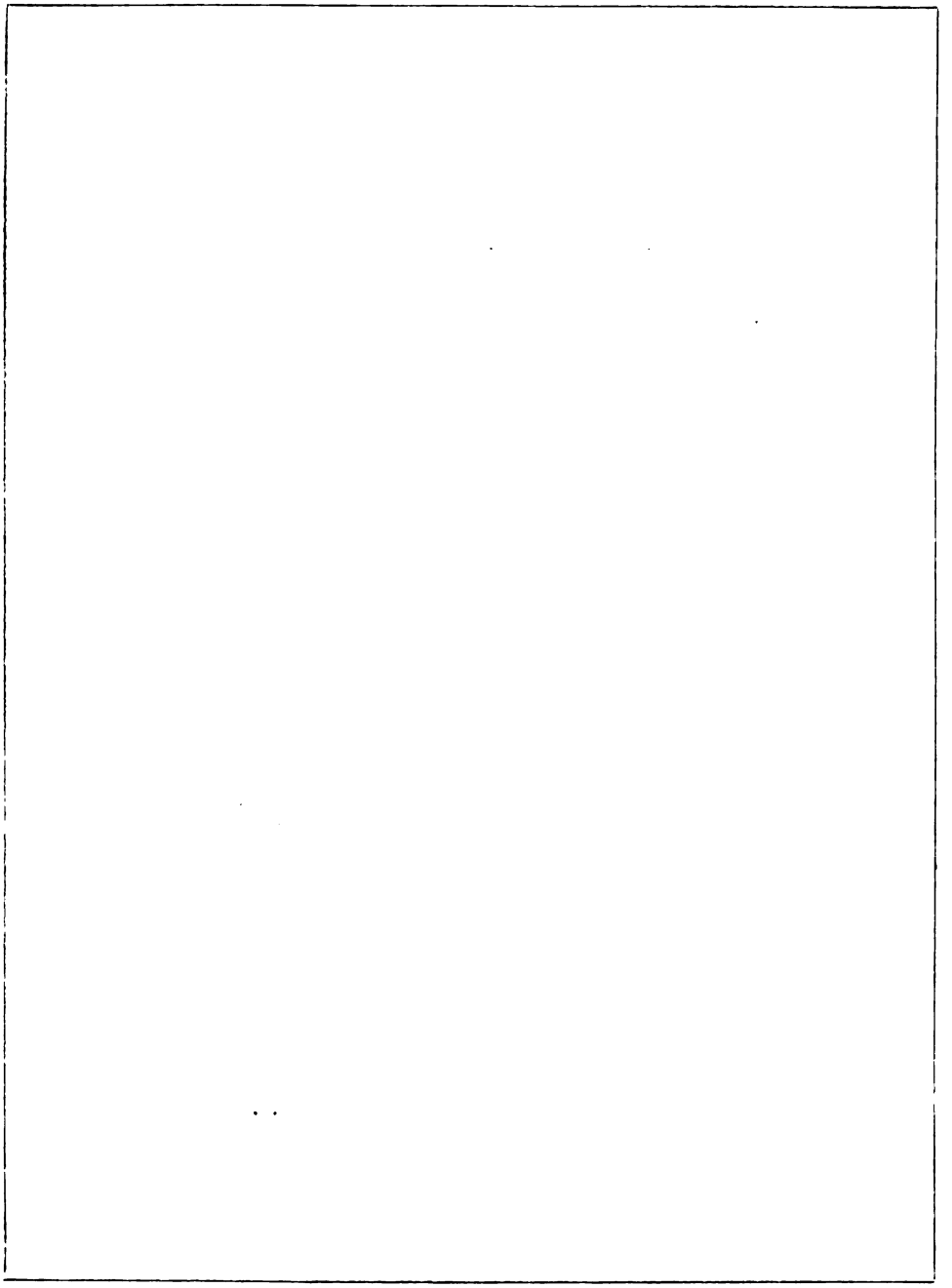
OF THE

LORDS OF THE MANOR.

THE HISTORY

OF THE

LORDS OF THE MANOR.



THE HISTORY

OF THE

LORDS OF THE MANOR.

NOTHING is known of the history of the Iceni before the invasion of Britain by the Roman forces under Aulus Plautius in A.D. 43. Notwithstanding that he was accompanied by four legions of veteran soldiers, and that his lieutenant was the distinguished Vespasian, assisted by his equally gifted son, it took Aulus Plautius seven years of hard fighting to subdue even the south of England. During several subsequent campaigns, the Iceni made heroic struggles to keep the invaders at bay, and to prevent their obtaining any permanent hold upon their territory ; but the contest was hopeless from the beginning, and, in the end, the superior discipline of the Roman arms prevailed, and Icenia was occupied and annexed. Recognising the fact that they were beaten, and that it was futile to continue the struggle, the Iceni, like a brave race, bowed to the inevitable, and turning the fierce energy of their nature into other channels, endeavoured to learn from their conquerors

the arts of civilization and of peace. There was one remarkable and final exception to this acquiescence in their fate when the formidable insurrection under Boadicea broke out, which shook to its foundation the hold of Imperial Rome upon the island of Britain. With the advent of Julius Agricola came a period of rest and quiet, when the resources of the country underwent considerable development, and great strides were made in the art of road-making, and in material prosperity generally. In the western portion of what is now the County of Norfolk, the Romans eventually founded two military stations of some importance, — the one at Brannodunum (Brancaster), the other at Sitomagus (Thetford). At an early date the north-east wind bore the cyules of the fair-haired Saxons from the islands of the Elbe to the eastern shores of Britain, whence they returned to their own country laden with spoil. In order to prevent these piratical raids, the Romans erected nine castles, at different points along the coast of Britain, from Brannodunum to Beachy Head. In some of these forts cavalry were quartered, and in others infantry, and the supreme command was vested in the Count of the Saxon Shore. A detachment of Dalmatian horse was stationed at Brannodunum, and, in order to keep up the communication with the inland military stations, a road was made from thence to Sitomagus. After skirting the Roman watch-tower on Bircham Heath, and passing the ancient barrows on Anmer Heath, this road—now called the Peddar's Way—descends sharply into the marsh at Harpley Dam, and, at the point of crossing the brooklet, divides into two parts. That part which lies on the left hand ascends a slight incline, and, after passing through the western end of Little Massingham Parish, crosses Massingham Heath, and makes for Castle Acre. Up this grass-grown, and,

in parts, all but disused road, spurred, in eager haste, many a messenger with news from Rome; and, after the last Roman soldier had marched southwards in obedience to the call from the Capital for help, down it, doubtless, poured the wild sons of the Vikings, armed with battle-axe and sword, who laughed to scorn the fiercest gales of the northern seas, and who came to mingle bloods and help in founding a nation, whose restless energy has colonised every country under the sun. Years afterwards, this road echoed to the solemn tread of Edmund and his suite of cowled monks; while, following, came the fierce, victorious Danes, burning and plundering in their course, till they were checked by the walls of the Capital of East Anglia.

In A.D. 571, the kingdom of East Anglia was consolidated by the Saxon Uffa. After the death of his grandson Redwald, Erpenwald, who succeeded him, banished his half-brother Sigebert from the country, for apprehended designs upon the Crown. This banishment was fraught with important consequences for East Anglia: for Sigebert, having retired to France, placed himself under the care of a Burgundian priest, named Felix, by whom he was instructed in, and baptized into, the Christian Faith. On the death of Erpenwald, Sigebert was elected to the throne of East Anglia, and sailed for England, in company with Felix. Felix, encouraged by the King, and filled with the enthusiasm of a noble cause, threw himself, with all the vigour of a great mind, into the work of publishing the Gospel to the people of East Anglia, and, for many years, he was a successful and beloved Evangelist and Bishop. It is not beyond the region of probability that he, who founded a Church not twelve miles distant from the spot where his feet first touched English soil, and who travelled far and wide throughout his adopted country

inculcating religion, may, at some time during his pastoral wanderings, have visited Massingham and its neighbourhood, in order to publish the Good News of God to the scattered inhabitants that fed their swine on the grassy uplands.

For nearly three hundred years, the history of East Anglia consists principally of internecine war; and, at the end of that period, the Danes appeared upon the coast. For two hundred years, these fierce barbarians of the north were the terror and the scourge of the Saxons; and ever when the Danish flag, bearing the representation of a Raven, was seen over the waves that beat towards England, it was the sure omen of burning dwelling-houses, of pillaged monasteries, and of a fugitive or slaughtered people. A contemporary writer pathetically describes the condition of the Angles. He says, "Such is the Danes' valour that one of them will put ten of us to flight: two or three will drive a troop of captive Christians from sea to sea. The slave of yesterday becomes the master of his lord to-day. Soldiers, famine, flames and blood surround us. The poor are sold out of their land for foreign slavery. Children in their cradles are sold for slaves, by an atrocious violation of the law." The misery and wretchedness of the inhabitants of the land continued until the Monarch ascended the throne, of whom the Saxon poet sang :—

"Here ended his earthly joys Edgar, England's King,
And chose the light of another world, beauteous and happy:
Here Edgar departed—the Ruler of the Angles,
The Joy of the West Saxons, the Defender of the Mercians—
That was known afar among many nations:
Kings, beyond the baths of the sea-fowl, worshipped him, far and wide,
They bowed to the King, as one of their own kin.
There was no Fleet so proud, there was no Host so strong,
As to seek food in England while this noble King ruled.
He reared up God's House, he loved God's laws,

He preserved the people's peace: the best of all the Kings
That were before in the memory of man.
And God was his helper; and Kings and Earls bowed to him,
And they obeyed his will; and, without battle,
He ruled as he willed."

After the defeat of his army at Maldon, Ethelred the Unready, adopted the expedient of buying off the Danes with money. To meet the demand thus made upon the Royal Treasury, it was proposed to assess every hundred in the Kingdom at a certain amount, and that every hundred should raise its proportion of the sum required by taxing every hide of land which lay within its limits. The price of Peace was raised successively from ten thousand to fifty thousand pounds weight of silver. This unpopular and humiliating tax continued long after the need for its existence had passed away, and, much to the joy of the population of England, it was finally abolished by Edward the Confessor. Little Massingham paid its contribution to this tax at the rate of eightpence for every twenty shillings' worth of land.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Harold, Earl Godwin's son, owned a manor in Great Massingham, part of which extended into what is now Little Massingham. Another part of Little Massingham, and also the Manor of Anmer, were the property of a Saxon freeman, named Orgar. A very large estate extended from Hillington, through Congham and Grimston, into the western part of Little Massingham, and was the lordship of another freeman named Scula.

Harold, Duke of the East Angles, was, at this time, not only the most powerful noble of East Anglia, but, also, next to his father, in the whole realm. Possessed of great courage and

personal prowess, a man of brilliant and varied qualities, he had, by his courteous and generous bearing and his determined attitude towards the Frankish element at Court, become a great favourite with the people.

After the riot which took place in the streets of Dover between the townsmen and the retainers of the Earl of Boulogne, Earl Godwin demanded of the King the punishment of the assailants, and, on his request being refused, took up arms. Harold espoused his father's cause and enrolled a large body of East Anglian soldiers for his assistance; but having been summoned by Edward to London, and expressly warned to appear with no larger a retinue than twelve, he was there compelled to resign his lands into the King's hands, and to promise to disband his soldiers. On quitting London, Harold made direct for the coast, and, taking ship, sailed for Ireland. Immediately the news of his flight reached the Court, a sentence of outlawry was pronounced against him, and the title of Duke of East Anglia, and also the major part of his estates, were conferred by the King upon a courtier named Alfgar. When Harold returned to England and obtained Edward's pardon, his estates were restored to him. In recognition of Alfgar's care of them during his exile, and of his willing restitution of them on his return, Harold surrendered to him the Dukedom of East Anglia, together with all his lands and his rights in the city of Thetford.

For some years after the death of Harold at Hastings, West Norfolk enjoyed its independence; and Orgar and Scula, among the thanes and ceorls of the County, acknowledged no superior, paid no tribute, and continued to manage their estates and govern their vassals according to the example of immemorial custom. But when the Conqueror's

ships appeared in the Wash, and William himself was marching at the head of his forces from Cambridge to Ely, in order to storm Hereward's impregnable natural fortress, the day of independence for the Saxon gentlemen of West Norfolk was drawing to a close. With the treacherous betrayal of Hereward, their last hope of immunity from foreign oppression disappeared, and William's soldiers soon after burst into the County, plundering and firing homesteads as they went, and putting to the sword all who dared withstand them.

As a reward for his services, William bestowed upon Eudo, the son of Spiruwin, the Barony of Tateshale in Lincolnshire. There this lord and his descendants settled, taking their surname from the estate. William, also, gave to Eudo the lands of Scula in Hillington, Grimston, Congham, and Little Massingham, which were known afterwards as the Tateshale Manor. Scula's property in Little Massingham, at the time of the Survey, consisted of "three carucates of land, to which were annexed in the Confessor's time eight villeins (at the Survey only seven) and one slave. There were two carucates of land in demain, and one carucate among the tenants. There were five swine and forty sheep, and the annual value was twenty shillings. Bervald, at the Survey, held this land under Eudo."

Eudo's Manor of Tateshale in Norfolk became divided in the course of time, and his lands in Little Massingham and in Congham were eventually consolidated into an estate called Petegars. This estate, about A.D. 1302, passed into the possession of Sir John de Thorp, by right of his wife, Alice, the relict of Sir William Mortimer; and, for two generations, it remained with his descendants. By this marriage the two lordships of Little Massingham, as will be seen hereafter, passed into the possession of one owner for a time. The De Thorpes,

eventually, alienated Petegars' estate to the Le Stranges of Hunstanton, and Henry le Strange died seized of it in A.D. 1483. The separated lands of Little Massingham were again united and owned by one lord in the sixteenth century, by the marriage of Robert Mordaunt with the heiress, Barbara le Strange.

The Massingham demesne of the late King Harold, William the Conqueror divided into two parts: that portion which lay in Great Massingham he retained for his own use; the remainder he attached to the lands of Orgar in Little Massingham, and conferred them (together with Anmer and other estates) upon his great ally, Eustace, Count of Boulogne. The entry of this latter property in the Domesday Book is as follows: "In the time of the Confessor there were four carucates of land, to which five villeins and five borderers were annexed, and two acres of meadow. At that time there were two carucates in demain, but at the Survey three. There was always one carucate divided among the freemen, and the fourth part of a salt-pit. One socman belonged to the estate, who held twelve acres, and in the Confessor's time twenty-four sheep, but, at the Survey, two hundred and sixty, and twenty-three swine. In the Confessor's time the yearly value was twenty shillings, at the Survey it was fifty. There were twenty socmen of Harold's in Massingham who had two-and-a-half carucates of land; and five borderers. In the Confessor's time, and afterwards, there were six carucates of land, but, at the Survey, only three, the annual value of which was fifty shillings. All these were delivered to Eustace as Harold held them, and, at the Survey, Wido Angevin held them under him. The total length was one leuca, and the breadth half a leuca."

In August, A.D. 1086, William the Conqueror, in order to confirm his primary and sovereign rights over every estate in the kingdom, convened at Salisbury an assembly of the great churchmen, the barons, and other landowners of the realm. There Eudo and Eustace, Wido Angevin and Bervald, with others, sub-tenants as well as the tenants in capite, were compelled to take the oath of fealty to the King as Lord Paramount of all.

Eustace, lord of Little Massingham, was a person of high birth and great power, and a descendant of the famous Charlemagne, King of France, and the first Emperor of Germany. He was Earl of Boulogne, Guisnes and Terouenne, and sailed with William, as one of his most powerful allies, to the invasion of England. His boldness decided the victory at Hastings, which, for a time, hung in the balance. Some months afterwards, this ambitious Baron, aiming at the extension of his influence in the kingdom, attempted, in concert with the native chieftains of Kent, to seize Dover Castle. This act of treason drew down upon him William's severe displeasure, and for a time, he was out of favour at Court. But his great influence and power made Eustace a most formidable baron, and William deemed it a matter of policy to effect a reconciliation, and to try and retain his allegiance, rather than his ill-will.

By his wife Itta, the sister of Godfrey, Duke of Brabant, Earl Eustace had four sons, of whom the eldest, Godfrey of Bouillon, was esteemed the best soldier and the most virtuous gentleman of the age in which he lived. The conquest of the Holy Land being made under his conduct, he was chosen, in preference to all other princes who engaged in that enterprise, to be the first Christian King of Jerusalem. Baldwin and Eustace, his brothers, partook with him the honour of the

Crusades. At their conclusion, Eustace returned to Boulogne, the earldom of which he governed wisely and well. Baldwin, however, remained in the East, where he was first made Earl of Edessa, and then, on the death of Godfrey, King of Jerusalem. He ruled with vicissitudes of good and bad fortune, but with such a constant magnanimity, that his renown was almost equal to that of his brother. At the decease of Baldwin, it was proposed to offer the Crown to Eustace, and an embassy was despatched inviting him to come and receive it. In answer to the summons, Eustace journeyed as far as Apulia, but hearing there that in the meanwhile his cousin, Baldwin de Burg, had been elected King of Jerusalem, he renounced his pretentions rather than incite to a civil war, and returned to his country. His only child, Matilda, married Stephen, King of England, to whom she brought not only the earldom of Boulogne, and an alliance from her mother with the English and Scotch blood royal, but, also, the high character and the lofty spirit which she inherited from her father.

The family of Wido Angevin, into whose care Count Eustace delivered his lands in Little Massingham and elsewhere, in return for the rendering of certain services of a feudal character, appears to have settled in England before the Conquest. Osmund the Angevin, the brother or kinsman of Wido, held a grant of the manor of Witham and of forty acres of wood, which had been made to him by Edward the Confessor. After entering into the possession of Earl Eustace's lands, Wido Angevin seems to have chosen Little Massingham for his favourite residence. Here, likewise, his son Roger dwelt, taking, as was customary among the Normans, the name of Roger de Massingham Parva from the property. Roger's son Robert, who for a time was distinguished by the surname

Fitz-Roger, afterwards changed it to de Thorpe on account of the estate which he owned near Wymondham. His descendants used indifferently the surname of de Massingham and de Thorpe until the time of Sir Edmund, when the surname de Thorpe became fixed and inheritable.

William, the first Earl of Warren and of Surrey, soon after entering into the possession of his extensive Norfolk estates, founded a Priory for Cluniac monks at Castle Acre, as a branch establishment to that founded by him at Lewes in Sussex. The neighbouring landowners readily came forward to assist in its endowment, fired with the desire that the House might be, not only a centre of religious influence for the neighbourhood, but, also, worthy to bear the names of the High God, Mary the Virgin, Peter and Paul. Amongst other benefactors, Sir Robert de Thorpe bestowed upon the Priory ten acres of land in Little Massingham, to which his son Hugh added, afterwards, five acres more.

Sir Hugh de Thorpe's son and heir, Sir John, married Margery, the daughter of Sir Robert de Creyke, Lord of North Creyke and of Hillington, and by this marriage Sir John's grandson added these estates to those already in the possession of the family. Sir John died during the reign of Henry III. His son, Sir Robert Fitz-John de Thorpe, was made one of the resident Barons of the Exchequer in A.D. 1236; and, during the Civil War, notwithstanding the influence exerted in the County by the presence of the Barons' fortified camp at Ely, he remained firm in his allegiance to King Henry.

"In Saxon times although no man was allowed to kill or chase the King's deer, yet he might start any game, pursue or kill it on his own estate; but the rigour of the Forest Laws of William I. vested the sole property of all game in

England in the King alone, and no man was entitled to disturb any fowl of the air or beast of the field, of such kinds as were specially reserved for the amusement of the Sovereign, without express license from the King by grant of a chase or free-warren." A confirmation of this latter license for Little Massingham was obtained from Henry III. by Sir Robert in A.D. 1266. Five years afterwards, Sir Robert erected a gallows at Thorpe for the purpose of hanging the poachers caught upon his estate. For this illegal erection, the Baron of the Exchequer was sued at law, and judgment given against him, on the ground that the manor of Thorpe never had the right of making such an erection. He was thereupon ordered to remove it. Sir Robert was appointed Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in A.D. 1282. In A.D. 1294 he was still alive, having in conjunction with Maud, his wife, executed a deed of exchange of property, but died soon after, at about the age of eighty.

Sir John, his son, inherited, through his grandmother, the lands of North Creyke and of Quarles, as well as Netherhall Manor in Hillington. He, also, had a life interest in Gayton Thorpe; and by his second marriage, with the widow of Sir William Mortimer (who was taken prisoner by the French during the Earl of Lincoln's attempt to raise the siege of Bellegarde and conveyed to Paris, where he died) he came into the possession of the Manor of Petegars, comprising land in Congham and Little Massingham. Sir John Ashwell and his brother, the priest of Massingham Parva, being desirous of selling the Manor of Ashwell, which joined that of Thorpe, Sir John de Thorpe purchased it, and since this time the combined manors have borne the name of Ashwell-Thorpe. The family of de Thorpe, possessing as it did both extensive estates and remarkable talents, had now become possessed not only of

great influence in the County, but also of a voice in the Councils of their Sovereign and in the administration of the affairs of his kingdom.

When Edward I., stung to the quick by the cunning of Philip of France in duping him out of the Duchy of Aquitaine, determined to avenge his wounded feelings by an invasion of France, writs were issued to the nobles of the kingdom, commanding them to meet the King at Portsmouth on the 1st September, A.D. 1293, each with his contingent of horses, men, and arms. Amongst those who obeyed the royal mandate were Sir John de Thorpe, and the husband of her who was to be his second wife, Sir William Mortimer of Attleburgh. The sudden outbreak of disaffection in Wales, and the pronounced hostility of the Scots, compelled Edward, reluctantly, to relinquish his contemplated invasion of France. He accordingly marched his army northwards into Scotland, where he led them from victory to victory, until, having crushed the Scottish resistance and captured John Baliol, he returned in triumph to London and disbanded his soldiers. When the news of Robert Bruce's escape from London, and of his crowning at Scone, startled all England, Edward hastily summoned another army to the field. To Sir John de Thorpe in Norfolk was despatched a letter ordering him to meet the King in the north "with his whole service of horse and arms." The sudden death of Edward, when about to move his troops forward, altered entirely the prospect of the campaign. Notwithstanding his stern instructions that "the flesh should be boiled off his bones, in order that they might be carried with the army to Scotland," Edward II. disbanded his father's forces almost immediately after his accession.

Sir John de Thorpe, in A.D. 1311, founded at Ashwell a Chantry Chapel in honour of St. Mary the Virgin, the chaplain

to which was to say Mass daily for the souls of his ancestors, and to pray for the welfare of him and of his wife. Jeffrey Kemp, rector of Little Massingham, was the third chaplain appointed to the office, after the erection and consecration of the chapel.

Four years afterwards Sir John was nominated to the office of High Sheriff of the combined counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; but, being reluctant to accept the office, he obtained his release from serving by urging the corporeal infirmities under which he was labouring. He, in concert with Sir Edmund Bacon, was appointed an ambassador to treat of and assent to a marriage between Joan, the daughter of Edward II., and Alphonso, the eldest son of the King of Arragon. When the civil war broke out between Edward II. and his barons, in consequence of the King's refusal to dismiss his favourite Le Despenser from power, Sir John declared for his Sovereign. Thereupon a Commission was issued to him, together with Thomas, Lord Bardolph of Wormegay Castle, and Sir John Howard of East Winch (an ancestor of the noble and illustrious family of Howard, Dukes of Norfolk), authorising them to array the county of Norfolk, and to seize upon and imprison any persons who should attempt to rise against the King. The next year, Sir John de Thorpe and Lord Bardolph were appointed Wardens of the ports of Norfolk, with orders to use extraordinary care and vigilance for the protection of the ports, and to endeavour to repel, with all the force of which they were capable, any of the attacks which it was apprehended the Flemings and the Scots would make. Certain defalcations having been discovered in the accounts rendered by some of the collectors of taxes in the realm, it was decided by the Government to institute a searching inquiry into the matter. One of the four knights appointed a King's Justice for this purpose was Sir John de

Thorpe, but he died before the investigation was completed, on the 16th May, A.D. 1323.

By his first wife, Agnes, Sir John de Thorpe had a son Robert, who was about thirty years of age at his father's decease. It is unknown what part Sir Robert took in the landing of Queen Isabella and Roger Mortimer on the coast of Suffolk in A.D. 1326, and in their subsequent successes, but he lived long enough to see the balance of power in the kingdom restored, and Isabella confined as a prisoner at large on the neighbouring manor of Rysing, while her paramour hung in chains at Tyburn. Sir Robert de Thorpe married Beatrix, the daughter of Sir Edmund de Hengrave, and died at the close of A.D. 1330, leaving behind him three sons, John, Edmund, and Robert, the eldest of whom was only fifteen years of age. The guardianship of the heir was entrusted to Sir John de Clavering; but the Lady Beatrix, with his consent, retired with her three sons to Massingham Parva for the purpose of superintending their education. Sir John, the eldest, was brought up to the profession of arms: Edmund and Robert to that of the law. Robert attained to the highest dignity of his profession. He was made, successively, one of the King's Judges, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, and finally, in A.D. 1372, Lord Chancellor of England. According to the Issue Roll of Thomas de Brantingham, he received yearly the sum of £40 for his fee as Chief Justice of the King's Bench. The immediate kinsman of Robert de Thorpe—Sir William de Thorpe—who was also a judge, came to an ignoble end. While presiding as Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench the latter was convicted of the crime of receiving a bribe of £20 in order to pervert the ends of justice, and was sentenced to be hung.

Soon after attaining his majority, Sir John de Thorpe married Joan, the daughter and heiress of Roger-atte-Ashe; but war with France breaking out almost immediately, he was summoned to the field. Before leaving England, he appointed his kinsman, Sir George de Thorpe, and another, his attorneys, to manage his estates, and present to the livings in his gift during his absence. Catherine, the widow of Sir John de Ingham, being desirous of taking the veil and retiring to the Convent of the Minories, London, Sir John de Thorpe, in order to facilitate the carrying out of her wishes, granted to the Abbess of the nuns of Clare, and to her successors, an annuity of twenty marks, payable out of his lands at Congham, and another annuity, of like value, out of his lands in Suffolk. Having embarked with the King's army, he took part in the subsequent ridiculous military promenade which culminated in the mock battle of Vironfosse, where the two armies of France and of England, after facing each other for several days, and despatching to each other messages of mortal defiance, at length marched away in opposite directions without striking a blow. Sir John de Thorpe died the year following, A.D. 1340, without male issue, leaving his estates to Joan, his wife, for life, with remainder to his brother, Edmund. His only daughter, Beatrix, married William Hovell, of Rishanger, Suffolk, an ancestor of the Hovells of Hillington Hall.

Five years after the death of her first husband, the Lady Joan de Thorpe married Sir Roger le Strange, of Hunstanton. On her decease, Sir Edmund de Thorpe succeeded to his brother's property. The abilities of Sir Edmund, which had raised him to the dignity of one of the King's Judges, were overshadowed by the possession of a selfish, cruel, and prodigal disposition. After having loaded himself with debt, he commenced a

suit to try and prove Joan his wife to be a bastard; but the case fell through on the testimony of Bishop Bateman, who certified that she was legitimate and the heiress of Robert Baynard. On the strength of this latter testimony, the manors of Colkirk, Bathele, and Gateley were made over to his wife. In A.D. 1358, being again in want of money, Sir Edmund mortgaged his estates for a period of twenty-one years, raising thereby the annual sum of one hundred marks for himself, and a like sum for each of his two daughters. Seven years after, the manor of Little Massingham was delivered to William de Bergh, rector of Cantele, by Sir Edmund's attorneys; and in A.D. 1380, the former mortgage having come to an end, Sir Edmund enfeoffed Robert de Thirning, rector of Combes, and Thomas de Bumpstede, a citizen of Norwich, with his manor of Little Massingham and others. By this deed he settled his manors on his sons and others, retaining for himself an annuity of one hundred marks.

In A.D. 1370, Sir Edmund de Thorpe was made High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk. In the Issue Roll for that year are recorded several payments to messengers for carrying letters to him from the King on public business. In Lynn, at that time, municipal and ecclesiastical affairs were in an unsatisfactory state. The "bishop's man," as his power increased, refused to acknowledge that he was the bishop's servant. The over-sensitiveness of control on the part of the Mayor, and the keen desire of the Bishop to be the dominant power in the town, led, naturally, to much heart-burning and irritation between the two, and this feeling more than once found an expression in deeds of hostility, which called for the investigation of Sir Edmund de Thorpe. In A.D. 1377, he received an order from the King to adjudicate upon a quarrel which had broken out

between Henry, Bishop of Norwich, and the townsmen of Lynn. A few years later a more serious breach of the peace took place. By injudiciously insisting on a point of etiquette, when he and his retinue met the Mayor and his followers in the streets of Lynn, the fiery soldier-bishop Spencer set the town in a blaze. An angry passage of words soon led to the drawing of swords, and the townsmen, enraged at the fancied insult put upon their representative, gathered in their numbers, and, falling upon the Bishop's party, drove them in confusion out of the East Gate.

During the lifetime of Sir Edmund de Thorpe, a relative, if not his brother's son, was actively engaged in forwarding from Winchelsea supplies to the English army in France. John de Thorpe was by profession a priest, but by taste and associations a soldier. While Edward III. was absent in France with his army, the French determined to execute a counter-stroke by making a descent upon Winchelsea, where the King had established his base of supplies and his transport station. One morning, while the people of Winchelsea were attending High Mass in the Parish Church, a fleet of ships with 3,000 men suddenly appeared off the harbour. Quietly landing their men, the French hastened through the almost deserted streets to the Church, and, surrounding it before the alarm had been given, slaughtered the congregation as it attempted to make its escape. The town was then pillaged and burnt. During the course of the day, succour arrived by sea from Rye, but on entering the harbour, by some mishap, the greater portion of the relief was drowned. After spending a day and a night in the town, the French set sail in triumph, carrying with them the fairest of the women, an abundance of plunder, and thirteen ships containing wine and provisions destined for the King's army. John de Thorpe was in Winchelsea during this raid,

and, for the loss and damage he sustained, was paid out of the Royal Exchequer the sum of £6. 13s. 4d. In A.D. 1367, John de Thorpe was despatched to Berwick-on-Tweed in order to receive the ransom of the King of Scots. In the summer of A.D. 1370, Winchelsea was again alive with active preparations for another expedition to France. As the King's fleet was inconsiderable and insufficient for the purpose, orders were issued to the various admirals throughout the kingdom, authorising them to seize upon all suitable ships that might be lying in any of the ports within their jurisdiction, and to send them round to Winchelsea. By this means, sufficient transport was provided for carrying to France the 8,000 cavalry, besides footmen and archers, who lay encamped outside the walls of Winchelsea. The embarkation was superintended by Sir Robert Knolles and Admiral Lord de Nevil, and, the day before the fleet sailed, John de Thorpe arrived with £4,000 wherewith to defray the cost of the expedition.

For his services to the State, John de Thorpe was awarded an annual pension of £20, which was only to continue, however, until the King had been able to provide him with an ecclesiastical benefice of an equivalent value. John de Thorpe was next promoted to the office of Keeper of the King's Exchange in the Tower of London; and, in A.D. 1391, Thomas de Morley, Marshal of Ireland, presented him to one of the livings in his gift in Norfolk.

Two years after this, Sir Edmund de Thorpe died, leaving behind him three sons and two daughters. To Edmund, his eldest son, he bequeathed all his goods in his Manor House at Little Massingham, together with the charter or murrey cup, the heir-loom of the family. He, also, left legacies to his

tenants in Little Massingham, and an order for the payment of five marks to whomsoever should undertake for him a pilgrimage to St. James the Apostle. Sir Edmund lies buried in the chancel of Ashwell-Thorpe Church.

Thomas, his youngest son, was appointed Speaker of the House of Commons in A.D. 1452. Joan, one of his daughters, married Guy Corbet, lord of Dunham Parva and Assington. His eldest son was married in Ashwell-Thorpe Church on October 6th, A.D. 1368, by Sir Jeffrey de Massingham, rector, to Margaret de la Rivère, in the presence of Sir Edmund, Dame Joan, his wife, and a brilliant company. Sir Edmund the younger's second wife was Joan, the widow of Roger, Lord Scales, of Middleton Castle and Newcells. When the spirit of insurrection, which arose in Kent, A.D. 1381, spread into the eastern counties, Lord Scales was seized by the rebel leaders. He afterwards accompanied Richard II. in his expedition to Scotland, and was present at the sacking and burning of Edinburgh. The next year he embarked in the costly and fruitless expedition of the Duke of Lancaster to obtain the crown of Castile. Lord Scales died in A.D. 1387; and only a few months after Sir Edmund de Thorpe, without waiting for the royal license, married his widow. For this offence he was fined the sum of £20. By this marriage Sir Edmund became, temporarily, the owner of Middleton Castle, the young Lord Scales being at the time only a lad of fourteen years of age.

Richard II. having imprudently quitted England at a critical period, in order to punish the Irish rebels for the death of his kinsman the Earl of March, Henry, Earl of Hereford, took advantage of the favourable opportunity, and, having landed at Ravenspur, was soon joined by the chief noblemen and

gentlemen of the kingdom. He then marched upon London, seized upon the royal treasure, and, having summoned a parliament, obtained from it the requisite authority for the deposition of Richard and the proclamation of himself as King, under the title of Henry IV. In the list of the barons of parliament who afterwards voted for the safe custody of the dethroned King, occurs the name of Sir Edmund's step-son, the young Lord Scales.

The De Thorpes had been for generations firm in their allegiance to the House of Plantagenet, and it may have been political necessity or a scrupulous conscience which induced Sir Edmund to leave England when the fortunes of that House decayed. In A.D. 1399, after making his will, by which he bequeathed the manor of Little Massingham to his wife for life, if it should fall into his hands, he sailed for France, and is next heard of at Bordeaux.

Henry V., in order to prevent domestic troubles, determined to provide a field of exercise for the restless but vigorous energy of his subjects by espousing the cause of the Duke of Burgundy against his cousin, the Duke of Orleans. Sir Edmund de Thorpe obeyed the King's summons to join his forces, and so won Henry's heart by his gallant and wise conduct, that, in A.D. 1417, he and John Nevill and John Kempe, LL.D. (afterwards the cardinal archbishop), were despatched as the Royal Envoys to the Duke of Burgundy, to treat of, and compose, all differences between him and the King. Sir Edmund accompanied Henry when he sailed out of Southampton Water with 30,000 men for the purpose of renewing the invasion of France ; but he and his wife's grandson, Robert, Lord Scales, a young man of barely twenty summers, fell mortally wounded at the siege

of the Castle of Louviers soon after landing. Sir Edmund's body was brought to England and laid in Ashwell-Thorpe Church beside that of his wife, Joan, who had sickened and died three years before, while England was ringing with the news of the victory at Agincourt.

Lady Joan de Thorpe became the mother of a son and a daughter by her first husband, Roger, Lord Scales; by her second, she had two daughters. By his will Sir Edmund de Thorpe bequeathed the Thorpe and Massingham estates to Joan, his elder daughter, with a reversion to her sister, Isabel, in the event of her leaving no issue. His wife, by her will, left her two manors of Stonhall Aspall in Suffolk, and Witlesford in Cambridgeshire, to her son Robert, Lord Scales, with remainder to her daughter, Lady Catherine Savage, the wife of Sir Arnold Savage, with remainder to her two daughters by Sir Edmund de Thorpe. Her manor of Cowling she bequeathed to Joan de Thorpe; while £20 were to be expended in the erection of a suitable tomb for herself.

Sir Edmund's eldest daughter, Joan, was thrice married. By her two first husbands—Sir Robert Caily and Sir Robert Echingham, Kt.—she had no children. By Sir John Clifton, Kt., of Buckenham Castle, she had an only daughter, Margaret, who married eventually the famous soldier Sir Andrew Ogard, of the Rye, Hertfordshire. Margaret Ogard died childless, and was buried by her husband in the Church of St. Mary's Priory, Wymondham, where he also was interred in A.D. 1454. Sir John Clifton was buried in the same spot, A.D. 1447, and his wife also, shortly afterwards. By his will, Sir John Clifton left to the Prior "the sum of £10 for ever in order to find a monk to sing for the soul of himself and of his wife."

Isabel de Thorpe, who had married Philip Tilney, of Boston, Lincolnshire, seems to have obtained possession of the manor of Little Massingham sometime before her sister's death. The Tilneys were so called from an estate anciently belonging to the family in Marshland. Tradition relates that the founder of the House was one Frederick Tilney, a man who, like the legendary Hickifric of Tilney, was of great stature and remarkable physical power; and that he accompanied Richard I. to the war in Palestine, and, for his valour at the siege of Acre, was knighted by his sovereign. He died at length peacefully in bed at home, and was buried in the Church of St. John's, Terrington.

In A.D. 1432, Philip Tilney and Isabel, his wife, conjointly, mortgaged the lordship of Little Massingham and that of North Creyke to Charles Alleyn, rector of North Creyke, for a period of six years, for the sum of two hundred and twenty marks. Four years afterwards Isabel died, and was buried in Ashwell-Thorpe Church, and over her remains was placed the following inscription :—

> "Hic jacet Isabella que fuit uxor Philippi Tylney, Armigeri, una filiarum et hæredum Edmundi Thorp, Militis, et Domine Johanne quondam Domine de Scales consortis sue que obiit decimo die mensis Novembris, anno Domini MCCCCXXXVI. Cujus anime propitietur Deus. Amen."

Overcome with grief at the loss of his wife, Philip Tilney retired from the world and became a secular canon of Lincoln Cathedral. Amid the devotions of a religious life, he passed away to his rest in October, A.D. 1453. His body was interred with due solemnity in the Cathedral Church of Lincoln, and on his tomb was inscribed the quaint epitaph:—

" Passed the pilgrimage of this present life,
Resteth Sir Philip Tilney, closed in your sight:
In his youth Esquire, and so wedded to his wife,
The daughter and heir of Edmund Thorp, Knight,
And aunt to Thomas, Lord Scales, descended of line right.
Disposed him after to God's ordinance
Couth none find in him matter of displeasaunce:
Here he lieth buried, Canon and Residentiary,
Sometime of Patrimony sufficient in deed:
But Death, that from her nature cannot vary,
Hath seized him by force—and we must all succeed.
Consider here a carrion worms to feed,
And pray for his soul of pain to have a lysse,
And do for him as thou wouldest he did at thy need—
Now Jesu, for Thy Passion, bring him to Thy bliss."

Sir Philip Tilney left a son, Frederick, who married Elizabeth, the widow of Sir John Say. By her, Frederick Tilney had an only daughter, who was quite a child at his death. In accordance with the law of the feudal system, John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, claimed the wardship of Elizabeth Tilney, by right of his superior lordship over certain of her lands. By this means he obtained the power of controlling her marriage, in order that he might obtain for himself, in the person of her husband, a sufficient and trustworthy vassal. During her minority, the care of Little Massingham and of other of her estates was placed in the hands of Sir John Bourchier, a connection by marriage of the Duke of Norfolk.

The family of Bourchier was one of the most ancient in the kingdom, and the branch of it at present under notice was peculiarly successful both in its pursuits and in its connections. William Bourchier, the father of Sir John, married the granddaughter of Edward III., by whom he became the father of five children, all of whom were distinguished in English history, either by their abilities or by their alliance with

noble houses. For his services in the French wars, and particularly at the siege of Dieppe, Henry V. created William Bourchier, Count of Eux, in Normandy.

Henry, the eldest son of the Count of Eux, was made Lord Treasurer of England. Having sided with the House of York in the War of the Roses, he became a great favourite with Richard, Duke of York, who gave him to wife, Elizabeth, the sister of the Queen of Edward IV., "in the firme hope and suer confidence that he and his generacion should be a perpetuall aide to the Duke and his sequele, as well in prosperitie as adversitie, and associate together in all chances of fortune." Henry Bourchier fought for the Yorkist cause in several of the battles of the Civil War, and, on the accession of Edward IV., was created Earl of Essex.

Henry's brother, Thomas, became Lord Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury. He held the latter office during the reigns of five successive Kings, Henry VII. being the last sovereign upon whose head he placed the crown of England. Shakespeare makes Cardinal Bourchier promise to undertake the task of decoying the young Duke of York, Edward's son, from his mother's arms and Sanctuary at Westminster, the sequel to which was the murder of him and his brother in the Tower. Archbishop Bourchier deserves, however, to be best remembered for his services in promoting the introduction of the printing-press into England. By his persuasions, Henry VI. was induced to send Turnour and Caxton to the Continent, in the guise of merchants, in order that they might acquire a knowledge of the art of printing. They accomplished their mission with great difficulty, and, on their return to England, Caxton set up

his first printing-press on the spot now occupied by the Westminster-Palace Hotel.

Sir John Bourchier, temporarily lord of Little Massingham, was the youngest son of the Count of Eux. In early life he enthusiastically attached himself to the fortunes of the House of Lancaster, and, after the first Battle of St. Albans, he was made a Knight of the Garter by Henry VI. Family considerations, or other causes, induced him, afterwards, to change sides. On the accession of Edward IV. to the throne, he was appointed Constable of Windsor Castle and Warden of the Parks and Forests. The remembrance of his term of office is still perpetuated at Windsor in the name of one of the Castle Towers.

During the temporary flight of Edward from the kingdom, Sir John Bourchier was deprived of the Constableship by the Lancastrians, and fled into sanctuary; but, on the return of Edward, he was reinstated in his post, which he held until his death, 16th May, A.D. 1474. According to his desire, his body was interred in the Chapel of the Holy Rood, in St. Peter's Monastery, at Chertsey. Sir John Bourchier married Margaret, the daughter and sole heiress of Richard, Lord Berners, and, on the death of his father-in-law, he was summoned to Parliament as Lord Berners. Being desirous of retaining in his family the de Thorpe estates, John, Lord Berners, with the consent of the Duke of Norfolk, arranged a marriage between his son, Humphrey Bourchier, and the orphan heiress, Elizabeth Tilney.

Humphrey Bourchier was a courtier of Edward IV., and, like his father, stood high in the graces of his sovereign. At Edward's coronation, he was made a Knight of the Bath. Nine years later, the King's mind was thrown into a state of

consternation by the news that the Duke of Warwick had effected a landing on the coast of England: that he had proclaimed the dethroned Henry as King, and that, without difficulty, he was raising an enormous army wherewith to support his monarch's cause. Edward immediately despatched letters to his nobles summoning them to arms, but so small a number replied to the command, that, deeming resistance to be a hopeless task for the present, he decided to quit the realm. With a company of only eight hundred followers, amongst whom were his brother, the Duke of Gloucester, Lord Hastings, Lord Scales, and Sir Humphrey Bourchier, Edward hastened from Lincolnshire to Lynn, where he took shelter in the Red Mount, while his friends were busy making preparations for his escape abroad. Having found in the port an English ship and two hulks of Holland ready to sail, the King and his suite embarked, and, amid the regrets of those who watched them from the shore, the vessels weighed their anchors, and, slipping down the river, were soon in the open sea. The next year matters were ripe for Edward's return. Failing to effect a landing in Norfolk, he turned his vessels' heads northwards and disembarked on the coast of Yorkshire. His partisans flocked to his standard, and, at the head of fifteen hundred men, he commenced his march towards London, daily receiving fresh accessions of strength, until his army had swelled to sixty thousand. The Duke of Warwick, however, was hovering in his rear with a formidable array. In order to decide the contest, Edward marched out of London and gave him battle at Barnet. Between four and five o'clock on Easter morning, notwithstanding the thick haze, the King advanced his banners, and caused the trumpets to sound to the battle.

For three hours both sides fought with obstinate valour, and the victory remained undecided between them; but an accident threw the balance to the side of the Yorkists. Edward's cognizance was a sun, that of Warwick a star with rays; and the mistiness of the spring morning rendering it difficult to distinguish between them, the Earl of Oxford, who fought on the side of the Lancastrians, was, by mistake, attacked by his friends and chased off the field of battle. Amongst the illustrious dead left upon that memorable field was Sir Humphrey Bourchier, of whom the chronicler Hall says, "He was the only man of estimation slain on the King's side." He was honoured with an interment in St. Edmund's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, and over his remains was erected a tomb of grey marble, covered with a brass, on which is engraved the effigy of the Knight in full armour.

By Elizabeth Tilney, Sir Humphrey Bourchier had an only son, John—who was a child of seven years of age at his father's death—and two daughters. The wardship of the heir was claimed by Lord John Howard of East Winch, and granted to him by the King, in consequence of his feudal rights over certain of the child's manors. John Bourchier was born about the year 1464, and, at an early age, was sent to Oxford. For his father's sake, he was taken into the favour of Edward IV., and, at the age of eleven, on the occasion of the betrothal of the King's second son with the daughter of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, he was made a Knight of the Bath. After leaving Oxford, John Bourchier travelled on the Continent for several years. While there his grandfather died, and he succeeded to the vacant peerage. On the accession of Henry VII. to the throne, Lord Berners returned to England and received a flattering reception at Court. When Henry

sailed for Calais in order to punish Charles VIII. for seizing Ann of Britanny, as well as her dower, Lord Berners was commanded "to serve the King in his warres beyond see an hole yere with two speres, himself accompted, and either of them to have his custrell and page, besides four archers on horseback and twelve archers on foot." He accompanied Henry VIII. as Captain of the Pioneers in his invasion of France. When the Earl of Shrewsbury and the Lord Herbert had completely invested Terouenne, King Henry moved his contingent from Calais, in order to augment the attacking force. During the march, two of his largest pieces of ordnance were, inadvertently, left behind. One of the guns, called "John Evangelist," fell into the hands of the French a few days after, owing to the misconduct of the master carpenter, who, without communicating his intention to the Marshal, endeavoured to remove it at the head of one hundred labourers. While engaged in the operation, the fatigue party was attacked by a superior force of the enemy, and, after suffering considerable loss, the survivors were taken prisoners and conveyed into Boulogne, together with the gun. With this "mischaunce the Kyng was sore displeased." The French, exulting in the capture of the gun, assembled a large force in order to carry off the other—"a bombarde of yron called the red gonne." The Lord Berners, however, had prepared engines for the purpose of removing it, and the King having sent a body of spears for the protection of the party engaged in the operation, "by the diligent labor of the Lord Barnes ye piece of ordinaunce was raysed and carted." Meanwhile the enemy was approaching some 9,000 strong, the English numbering only 700 horsemen. Made confident by the presence of a superior force, the French cavalry furiously charged the spearmen covering

the retreat of the gun; but the English, having rapidly formed about, and crying "St. George!" dashed into the midst of their assailants, and, having broken through their ranks, drove them back in confusion to their supports. The gun was then safely conveyed into the English camp.

One of the articles of peace concluded with France in A.D. 1514 stipulated that Louis XII. should receive Henry's sister, Mary, in marriage. In the following October the Princess Mary was escorted to France by Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, in order to be introduced to her aged consort. In the brilliant train of nobles, knights, and ladies who accompanied the Princess were the Lord Berners and his youthful kinswoman, Anne Boleyn, his mother's granddaughter by her second husband, now Duke of Norfolk.

After the accession of Francis I. to the throne of France, Cardinal Wolsey persuaded Henry to send an embassy to Charles, King of Castile and Arragon, in order to try and break up the alliance between him and France. The performance of this delicate mission was entrusted to Lord Berners and the Bishop of Armagh, but it failed of success. Lord Berners, soon after reaching Spain, fell sick, and was compelled to return to England.

After this, he was appointed Deputy-General of the town and marches of Calais, and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Under the impression that, if the harbour were blocked up, the town of Calais could easily be assaulted and taken, the French, during his term of office, prepared a ship, which they filled with stones, and sank one dark night in May in the entrance to the port. Owing, however, either to the darkness of the night or the ignorance of the navigators, the ship was sunk in a place where it could do no harm. The next morning, Lord Berners, at the head

of a party of soldiers, triumphantly boarded her. While at Calais, Lord Berners, at the suggestion of Henry VIII., translated Froissart's Chronicles into English. After having had the rare favour of continuing in Henry's good graces for a period of eighteen years, Lord Berners died at Calais on the 19th March, A.D. 1532, and was buried in the Church of St. Mary's, in that town, "where there was, if there is not still, a comely monument erected over his remains."

Lord Berners married Catherine, the daughter of his guardian, John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, by his second wife Margaret, the daughter of Sir John Chedworth, Kt. By her he had two daughters, one of whom married Alexander Unton; the other, Edmund Knyvett, sergeant-porter to Henry VIII. Notwithstanding the fact that Lord Berners possessed immense estates in different parts of the country, yet "he sold almost all the substance of all his lands,"and died at last heavily in debt, owing the King, amongst other creditors, the sum of five hundred pounds. Although he was the heir to Massingham Parva, Lord Berners never entered into possession of the estate, being excluded by his wife's half-brother, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk who had married his mother, "tenant per legem Angliæ." He sold his reversion of the manor to Sir William Capel.

Less than two years after the death of Humphrey Bourchier on Barnet Field, his widow, Elizabeth, was wedded to Thomas Howard, the son of John, Lord Howard. By this marriage she obtained the "keeping and guiding of her three children—John, afterwards Lord Berners, Margaret and Anne Bourchier—at that time of full tender age." Elizabeth Howard became Countess of Surrey when Thomas Howard was created Earl of Surrey by Richard III., on the 28th June, A.D. 1483. She

lost that title when her husband was attainted and thrown into the Tower: regained it when he was finally restored to his honours by Henry VII.; but died before he was created Duke of Norfolk for his famous victory on Flodden Field. Her death took place about A.D. 1507, and, according to her expressed desire, she was buried in the nuns' quire of the Minories, London. She ordered "that no more than twenty torches be used at her burial and month's mind: that no dole or money be given at either of these solemnities; but that instead the sum of one hundred marks should be distributed amongst the poor, namely to every poor man and woman in the parishes of Whitechapel and Hackney the sum of sevenpence."

Elizabeth, Countess of Surrey, became, by her second husband, the grandmother of two Queens of Henry VIII., the mother-in-law of one king's daughter, and of another king's natural son, the great grandmother of Queen Elizabeth, and the mother of three sons who have left an imperishable name upon the pages of English history.

At the Battle of Flodden her eldest son, Thomas Howard, and his brother Edmund, led the van of the English army. In the battle, when Edmund, who was the Marshal of the host, was sorely pressed by the Scots, wounded and almost beaten to the ground, Thomas, accompanied by Sir Edward Stanley, rushed to his brother's aid, and, by his remarkable efforts and courage, delivered him from his peril. For his services on this occasion, Thomas Howard was created Earl of Surrey, and held in succession the offices of Lord Deputy of Ireland, Lord Treasurer of England, and Lieutenant-General of the King's forces. He was the father of the famous Earl of Surrey, of whom Sir Egerton Brydges thus writes:

"Excellént in arts and in arms; a man of learning, a genius and a hero; of a generous temper and a refined mind, he united all the gallantry and unbroken spirit of a rude age with all the elegance and grace of a polished era. With the greatest splendour of descent, in possession of the highest honours and unbounded wealth, he relaxed not his efforts to deserve distinction by his personal worth. Conspicuous in the rough exercises of tilts and of tournaments, and commanding armies with skill and bravery in expeditions against the Scots under his father, he still found time, at a period when our literature was rude and barbarous, to cultivate his mind with all the exquisite spirit of the choicest models of Greece and Rome, to catch the excellences of the revived muses of Italy, and to produce in his own language compositions which in simplicity, perspicuity, graceful ornament, and just and natural thought, exhibit a shining contrast to the works of his predecessors, and an example which his successors long attempted in vain to follow."

There was no family in England that Henry VIII. feared more than that of the Howards, which, strong in alliance and dependence, of a revenue not inferior to some foreign kings, derived its pedigree from Edward I.; and, in the last years of his life, when a miserable spirit of suspicion of every one around him had become a confirmed habit, Henry arrested Thomas, the third Duke of Norfolk, and the Earl of Surrey, his son, and threw them both into the Tower. Early in the next year the Earl of Surrey was beheaded, and the same fate was reserved for his father, and would have befallen him had not the death of the tyrant intervened. Thomas Howard was kept in imprisonment throughout the reign of Edward VI., and was only released by Mary in time to retire to his Palace at

Kenninghall to die. "The old most worthy Duke of Norfolke, my most singular good lord and master," writes his secretary, "departed this lyfe in the time of Queen Mary, who most honourably delivered him out of his long undeserved ymprisonment in the Towre." The Duke's body was taken from Kenninghall to Framlingham, where it was laid to rest beside that of his father.

Elizabeth Howard's other son, Lord Edward Howard, K.G., entered the maritime service of his country early in life, and, for his distinguished abilities, was made Lord High Admiral of England. He kept such a sharp outlook at sea, that he swept every French ship off the English Channel, and so determinedly ravaged the opposite coast that, for a time, not a single French vessel durst venture out of port. At last a desperate engagement took place off Brest, when Admiral Lord Howard, having boarded a French ship, was slain and his body thrown into the sea.

Thomas Howard, Elizabeth Bourchier's second husband, was, if possible, a more extraordinary man than any of his sons. When quite a lad he was made one of Edward the Fourth's Pages of Honour, and, according to the custom then in vogue, he was instructed by the master of the henchmen "as to his demeanings, how mannerly he should eat and drink, and as to his communications and other forms of court." When young Howard heard that the Duke of Burgundy, one of the nearest allies of England, was warring against Louis of France, he begged leave of the King to go into his service in company with other gentlemen of quality. They were received by the warlike Duke with all the courtesy they could expect, and had every encouragement young adventurers could pretend to in such a service. The young Howard did particularly advance

into the favour of the Duke by his application to what he came for, being the first in every occasion where he could gain honour or experience. At the end of the war he returned home laden with reward and the Duke's praises. King Edward made him one of the squires of his body, whose duty it was, besides attending to the appareling of his sovereign night and morning, "to drawe to lordes chambers within court in aftyrnoones and in eveninges, there to keep honest company after theyre cunnynge, in talkyng of cronycles of kings, and of other polycyes, or in pypeyng or harpyng, synging, or other actes martialles, to help occupy the courte, and accompany stranngers tyll the time require of departing." Thomas Howard was made a knight at the marriage of Edward's second son, the Duke of York; and, when the Earl of Warwick raised the standard of Henry VI., he fought at Edward's side on Banbury field, and was taken prisoner with the King when Warwick subsequently surprised the camp. When Edward fled to Flanders, Thomas Howard took sanctuary in St. John's, Colchester, but joined the King on his return, and at the Battle of Barnet he was badly wounded. When Edward contemplated the invasion of France in A.D. 1475, he was despatched to that country to make the necessary arrangements for the camping of the army, and on his return he obtained the King's permission to retire to his manor of Ashwell-Thorp, which, together with other estates, came to him by his marriage with Elizabeth Bourchier. Here he settled for the remainder of King Edward's days, living the life of a country gentleman. "Richard III., being one of the most politic as well as daring sovereigns, was not ignorant of the ill actions he had committed, nor of the consequences that were likely to ensue; he, therefore, made it his business to gain from among the nobles and the people every man that had

either ability or the power to help him. Knowing that Lord Howard and his son, Thomas, had for the latter years of Edward's life retired from Court not over-satisfied, and that they were in no good correspondence with the Queen's kindred, whom he had been forced to suppress, he thought, from the great interest they had, and their exceeding reputation for wisdom and valour, that they were the fittest persons to be gained, and the likeliest to adhere to him of any other. Richard, therefore, invited the Howards to Court, and, as an earnest of his favour, created Lord John, Duke of. Norfolk, with the restitution of the lands of his mother's inheritance; while Thomas Howard, he created Earl of Surrey. These two nobles were henceforth chief in all the King's councils, and, by his prudent management, Richard so captivated their grateful hearts that they resolved to stand by him in every fortune. All that could be performed by the conduct of a captain or the valour of a soldier Richard put in practice at Bosworth to save his crown, which had cost him so many crimes. The Duke of Norfolk commanded the archers, and was slain while leading them on."

"Courageous Talbot had with Surrey met,
And, after many blows, begins to fret
That one so young in arms should thus, unmoved,
Resist his strength, so oft in war approved.
And now the Earl beholds his father's fall,
Whose death, like horrid darkness, frighted all;
Some give themselves as captives, others fly;
But this young lion casts his generous eye
On Mowbray's lion painted in his shield,
And with that king of beasts declines to yield.
'The field' saith he, 'in which the lion stands
Is blood, and blood I offer to the hands
Of daring foes; but never shall my flight
Dye black my lion, which as yet is white.'

His enemies (like cunning huntsmen) strive
In binding snares to take their prey alive,
While he desires t' expose his naked breast
And thinks the sword that deepest strikes is best.
Young Howard, single, with an army fights,
When, moved with pity, two renowned knights—
Strong Clarendon and valiant Conyers—try
To rescue him, in which attempt they die.
Now Surrey, fainting, scarce his sword can hold,
Which made a common soldier grow so bold
To lay rude hands upon that noble flower,
Which he disdaining (anger gives him power),
Erects his weapon with a nimble round,
And sends the peasant's arms to kiss the ground.
This done, to Talbot he presents his blade,
And saith, 'It is not hope of life hath made
This my submission, but my strength is spent,
And some, perhaps of villain blood, will vent
My wearie soul. This favour I demand
That I may die by your victorious hand.'
'May God forbid that any of my name'
(Quoth Talbot) 'should put out so bright a flame
As burns in thee, brave youth! Where thou hast erred
It was thy father's fault, since he preferred
A tyrant's crown before the juster side.'
The Earl, still mindful of his birth, replied:
'I wonder, Talbot, that thy noble heart
Insults on ruines of the vanquished part;
We had the right, if now to you it flow,
The fortune of your swords hath made it so;
I never will my luckless choice repent,
Nor can it stain my honour or descent.'"

The Earl of Surrey at the time he was taken prisoner was in the vigour of his youth—tall, strong, and graceful, of a flourishing health and constitution, and esteemed one of the best men-at-arms of the age. He was of high spirit but had a sober aspect, and was nothing dejected by his ill fortune. The Earl of Richmond was surprised, though not undelighted, with the sight of so extraordinary a man, and, after having said something to the other prisoners of quality, called for him

and demanded, "How he durst engage in the service of so unjust and cruel a tyrant as the late king?" To which the Earl of Surrey, nothing daunted, replied, "That King Richard was in the throne before he came into his interest; and if he had found the crown of England upon a bush he would have fought for it." The Earl of Richmond, though not exasperated at the answer, dismissed him into the charge of those whose duty it was to carry him to the Tower of London, where for three years and a half he lay incarcerated under a bill of attainder. During this time he refused all invitations from the King's enemies and malcontents to enter into the intrigues of their faction. He would not hear of the Duchess of Burgundy nor the Earl of Lincoln. When a great consternation arose upon that Prince's invasion of England, and the armies approached towards Stoke in Lincolnshire, in order to fight with the King and his forces, the Lieutenant of the Tower appeared one morning in the chamber of Thomas Howard with the keys of the Tower, which he offered to him if he chose to avail himself of the chance of liberty. This Howard refused to do, saying "He would never leave to be a prisoner but by his consent that had thought him worthy of such a punishment." When the news of the Earl's trustworthiness was reported to Henry VII. on his return victorious from Stoke Field, he granted him his liberty, judging rightly that a man who had acted as Thomas Howard had done was not an ordinary character. He was, thereupon, appointed a Privy Councillor, having proved himself to be "vir prudentia, gravitate et constantia firma." Shortly afterwards (A.D. 1489) he was restored by an Act of Parliament to the title of Earl of Surrey, and all the lands he possessed by right of his wife's inheritance were confirmed to him for life "by the courtesy of England,"

in the event of her death preceding his. When the outbreak occurred in the north of England over the raising of a subsidy, the command of the King's army was entrusted to the Earl of Surrey, who took with him Sir John Bourchier, his stepson, as one of his lieutenants. On the suppression of the insurrection, the Earl of Surrey was made Lieutenant-General of the King's forces in the northern district. While holding this position, war broke out between England and Scotland, and Surrey, having made a raid into Teviotdale, burning and plundering as he went, besieged and took Heiton Castle in the face of the Scottish army. In A.D. 1501, Henry VII. made him Lord Treasurer of England; and Henry VIII. on his accession, confirmed him in all the appointments and honours which his father had conferred upon him. The command of the north was again entrusted to the Earl when Henry VIII. sailed for France. On marching northwards, Surrey found that James IV. had already invaded England and had taken Norham Castle. Gathering together his forces (which numbered 26,000 men) he made the more speed, and ordered his son, Thomas, then Lord Admiral, to come by sea and meet him at, or near Alnwick, with a thousand men. Hearing that the Scots had intrenched themselves on a hill called Flodden, on the edge of the Cheviots, and finding that the country had been so thoroughly requisitioned that it would be impossible for him to continue to obtain the necessary supplies for his army, the Earl of Surrey despatched Red Herald on Sunday, 4th September, conducted by a trumpeter, with instructions to tell King James that, in consequence of his having violated faith and league in hostilely entering England, he (the Earl of Surrey) resolved on Friday next to bid him do battle, if he would accept the challenge. On receiving the Scottish King's gauge, Surrey

marched within three miles of Flodden, when, observing that the Scotch were still posted on the hill-sides, he sent the Herald to the King with a letter, bidding him to descend with his troops into the plain. Having received no satisfactory answer to this, Surrey moved his army forward, in order to cut off the Scotch from their base of supplies. King James, aware of his danger, ordered his men to fire their huts, and, under cover of the smoke, marched them to higher ground. Thomas and Edward Howard led the van of the English army, Surrey and Stanley commanded the rear. When near enough to take effect, the English archers poured cloud after cloud of arrows into the foremost companies of the Scots, which so unsteadied them that they began to waver, and at last opened their ranks in order to avoid them. Lord Dacres was watching his opportunity, and immediately this false movement was made, he dashed into the midst of the Scots at the head of his body of horse. In vain the King tried to steady and re-form his men: the confusion irresistibly spread as the English troops rapidly moved up, and, before long, notwithstanding the dauntless efforts of James and his body-guard, the Scotch army was completely disorganised.

The King and his chief nobles were left dead upon the fatal field, and, so disastrous was the fight, there was scarcely a household in Scotland that had not cause to mourn a lost one.

"Had you seen them, O my masters!
When the night began to fall,
And the English spearmen gathered,
Round a grim and ghastly wall!
As the wolves, in winter, circle
Round the leaguer on the heath,
So the greedy foe glared upward,
Panting still for blood and death.

But a rampart rose before them,
  Which the boldest dared not scale,
Every stone a Scottish body,
  Every step a corpse in mail.
And behind it lay our Monarch,
  Clenching still his shivered sword,
By his side Montrose and Athole,
  At his feet a Southron lord.
All so thick they lay together
  When the stars lit up the sky,
That I knew not who were stricken
  Or who yet remained to die."

Lord Dacres found the body of James upon the field of battle and conveyed it to the Earl of Surrey at Berwick. It was then enclosed in lead and taken to York, from whence, at the King's command, it was carried to him at Richmond by the Earl of Surrey. Stow, in his Survey of London, says "The body was deposited in the monasterie of Shene, where it remained for a time; but since the dissolution of that House—Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, keeping house there—I have been showed the same body so lapped in lead close to the head and body, thrown into a waste room amongst the lumber. Since the which time workmen there, for their foolish pleasure, hewed off his head; and Launcelot Young, master glazier to Queen Elizabeth, feelinge a sweet savour to come from thence, and yet the form remaining, with the hair of the head and the beard red, brought it to London to his house in Wood Street, where (for a time) he kept it for the sweetness; but in the end caused the sexton of that church to bury it amongst other bones taken out of their charnel."

For achieving so splendid a victory, Henry VIII. (1st February, A.D. 1513-14) created the Earl of Surrey, Duke of

Norfolk and Earl Marshall, besides making him a special grant of an augmentation of his arms. During the King's temporary absence from his kingdom, on the occasion of the meeting between him and Francis I. on the Field of the Cloth of Gold, the Duke of Norfolk was appointed Protector and Defender of the Realm of England. Four years afterwards, feeling the weight of advancing years and of growing infirmities, he begged the King's permission to retire to his Castle of Framlingham, where he died on the 21st May, A.D. 1524, at the age of eighty, owing at the time, as his epitaph records, "not one grote for his debte, nor for restitution to any person." "He was buried with much pomp at Thetford Abbey, under a tomb designed by himself and Master Clarke, Master of the Works at King's College, Cambridge, and Wassel, a freemason of Bury St. Edmunds." At the dissolution of the Abbey, his bones were removed and buried in St. Michael's Church, Framlingham.

On the death of the Duke of Norfolk, Little Massingham came into the possession of the ancient Suffolk family of Capel, by virtue of Sir William Capel's purchase of his reversion of the manor from John, Lord Berners. Sir William Capel was an Alderman of the City of London, and in A.D. 1503 was elected Lord Mayor. From him the illustrious House of Capel, Earls of Essex, traces its descent. Sir William's case was the first noted instance of the perversion of justice by order of the Crown for the purpose of obtaining fines and compositions. He was condemned on some penal statutes to pay the sum of £2,743, and was obliged to compound for £1,615. Thirteen years afterwards, he was again fined £2,000 on some frivolous pretext, and, for daring to murmur against the iniquitous exaction, he was thrown

into the Tower. Sir William Capel married Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas Arundel, Kt., of Lanhern, Cornwall, by whom he had a son and two daughters. His elder daughter, Elizabeth, married William Paulet, the first Marquis of Winchester: his younger, Dorothy, John, Lord Zouch, of Harringworth. Sir William Capel died on the 6th September, A.D. 1514, and by his will bequeathed the lordship of South Wooton, together with all other his manors in Norfolk, to Margaret, his wife, for life, with remainder to his son and heir, Giles. Giles Capel was knighted for his valour at the sieges of Therouenne and Tournay, and during the battle of the Spurs. At the Field of the Cloth of Gold he was one of the champions of England, and, together with other gentlemen, challenged all comers in feats of arms for four days. He married twice, and left issue by his second wife, Isabel, the daughter of Sir Thomas Newton. Sir Giles Capel was succeeded by his son, Sir Henry, who was succeeded by his brother, Sir Edward. Sir Edward married Anne, the daughter of Sir William Pelham. Little Massingham was actually in the possession of the Capel family for ten years, and, on the 27th April, A.D. 1534, the manor was sold by Sir Edward Capel to Robert Mordaunt, Esq., of Hempstead, who already owned land in the village by his marriage with Barbara le Strange.

The le Stranges are a very ancient and distinguished family, and several members of the House have, under different sovereigns, held offices of great responsibility in the State. Guy le Strange, the founder of the family, came over in the train of one of William the Conqueror's nobles—the ancestor of the Fitz-Alans, afterwards Earls of Arundel—and, for his services to his chief, he received a grant of the lands of

Knockin, in the county of Shropshire. From Guy descended numerous powerful branches of the family who spread themselves throughout the country, and the heads of three of these families became so distinguished as to succeed in founding three different peerages in the realm. The le Stranges, Barons of Knockin, after existing for four centuries, became merged in the fortunes and honours of the Earls of Derby, by the marriage of the last female, Joan le Strange, with Sir George Stanley.

One branch of the le Strange's had settled at, and had been lords of the manor of Hunstanton at least from the time of Richard I; and, in A.D. 1483, Henry le Strange of Hunstanton died possessed amongst other estates of the manor of Tateshale, or Petegars, in Congham, together with a part of Little Massingham, which had been alienated by the de Thorpes. This property Henry le Strange left to his third son, John. John was brought up to the profession of the Law, and entered as a student of Lincoln's Inn, of which Society he was successively elected Reader, Treasurer, and a Fellow. His success as a barrister led to his appointment as a Counsel at Common Law, from which post he was promoted, on a vacancy occurring, to be one of the King's Judges. John le Strange married Margaret, one of the two daughters and heiresses of Sir Thomas le Strange of Walton d'Eiville, Warwickshire, by whom he had two children. Henry, his son, died in his youth, while Barbara, his heiress, married Robert Mordaunt, by which alliance she became the ancestress of the Mordaunts of Massingham. By his will, which was proved in October, A.D. 1517, John le Strange ordered his body to be buried in Little Massingham Church, if he should die within five miles of the village. "To his wife he bequeathed his lands in Congham and Little Massingham for life; after her decease they were to go to

her daughter Barbara, and in default of issue by her to Richard le Strange, his nephew's son. To Barbara, his daughter, he left all his law books—except the boarded ones, which were to be presented to the Library of Lincoln's Inn—which she was to keep for her son, if she should have the good fortune to bear one." His daughter Barbara and William Mordaunt, her father-in-law, were appointed co-executors of his will.

"In the year 1066, amongst other heroes who joined their hopes and assistance to the famous William, Duke of Normandy, there was a noble knight called Robert of St. Giles—in the Latin tongue, Robertus de Sancto Ægidio—who brought to his service four score knights out of the south of France. Of this Robert of St. Giles, no more is certain of what he was, than the assurance that the sovereign lords and princes of Toulouse did all, at that time, use the name and appellation of St. Giles or de Sancto Ægidio ; and that, after his labours in the war, he was rewarded by the Conqueror with great lands and noble possessions. His son, Eustace of St. Giles, did survive his father and possessed his acquisitions by a charter, wherein he gave to his brother, Osbert, who assumed the name of le Mordant, the lordship of Radwell and other lands in the county of Bedford. Osbert derived the name of le Mordant from "dare mortem," to destroy his enemy, he having set out to make his fortune by adventures of arms; and, for his good services, he received a grant of many lands and fair possessions in other counties. From this Osbert, all the Mordaunts derive their descent." The tenth in descent was William Mordaunt of Turvey, who had two sons, John and William. John joined Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick in the reign of Edward IV., and was with him at the Battle of Barnet, where his patron was slain and he himself badly wounded. He afterwards afforded

great and successful assistance to Henry VII., both at the Battles of Bosworth and Stoke Field, at the latter of which he was one of the commanders of the royal forces. For his services, he received the honour of knighthood and was made a Privy Councillor. He was afterwards made, successively, the King's Serjeant, Justice of Chester, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Knight of the Sword at the creation of Henry, Prince of Wales. His son was the first lord Mordaunt, and from him descended the now extinct branch of the Mordaunts, Earls of Peterborough. Sir John Mordaunt married Edith Latimer. He died in A.D. 1505, and lies buried in Turvey Church.

William, John's brother, became Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas. In June, A.D. 1495, he married Anne, one of the daughters of Thomas Huntington of Hempstead, Essex, the marriage festivities being provided, according to the contract, "at the cost and charges of the said William Mordaunt, as well in apparel as in meat and drink and other charges." By his wife, William Mordaunt had four sons and eleven daughters. Two of his sons died childless. His third son married Agnes, the daughter of Lord Rich, who by pliancy and profligacy, and, it is said, perjury, made his way to honour and became Lord Chancellor. William Mordaunt died in A.D. 1527, leaving testamentary instructions that "his body should be buried at Hempstead, and that, as soon as possible after his decease, there be five masses said for his soul of the Five Wounds, and five trentals for his soul and that of Anne his wife, whereof one to be at the Friars of Bedford, and the others at the four orders at Cambridge." His eldest son, Robert, as before-mentioned, married Barbara le Strange; and, in A.D. 1529, he held, in her right, lands called Ellinghams, Walcotes, Rusteyns, Geffreys, Petegars, and Alexanders, with thirty messuages in Little

Massingham, and Congham. He, also, owned the lands in Little Massingham belonging to Christ's College, Cambridge, (which are treated of under the heading Creyke Abbey), which had been re-leased by the authorities of the College to John le Strange, his father-in-law. In A.D. 1534, he purchased the manor of Little Massingham and all its rights from Sir Edward Capel, thus uniting under one lord the whole of the parish, with the exception of the lands still held by the Castle Acre and West Acre Priories. Besides this, Robert Mordaunt purchased from Sir Thomas le Strange his half rights in the estate of Walton D'Eiville, the other half having been left to his wife by her grandfather.

Not long afterwards, Robert Mordaunt began to reside at Massingham Parva, and from that time the Hall continued to be for many generations the favourite residence of the head of the family. Several generations of the Mordaunts were born and baptized in this quiet village, and lie buried under the shadow of the Church.

Philip, Robert Mordaunt's son, who died before his father, was twice married, and both his wives were interred at Massingham Parva. His second wife was the Lady Ann Hollis, the widow of Sir Thomas Hollis, a rake and a spendthrift, who ended his days in prison. The Lady Ann Hollis had been one of the Maids of Honour to Catherine of Arragon, the first wife of Henry VIII., at whose Court Sir Thomas Hollis first met her. She did not live long to enjoy the peaceful life of Massingham, dying and being buried there on the 28th September, A.D. 1567. Her husband died within two years, leaving behind him five sons. Philip's father, Robert Mordaunt, died on the 20th May, A.D. 1572, and was succeeded by his grandson, John. John died on the 7th July, A.D. 1574, and had

for his successor his brother James, who died a lunatic the year following. Robert, Philip's third son, next succeeded, and owned the whole of the property, with the exception of the lands which his grandmother, Barbara, held in her own right, as heiress of John le Strange. After long outliving her husband and several of her grandchildren, Barbara Mordaunt at length sank in the Spring of A.D. 1581, and on the 26th April was laid to her rest in the Parish Church.

Philip Mordaunt's fourth son, Henry, married Anne Foley, and was living at Massingham at least from the year 1572 to 1574, when two children, George and Barbara, were born to him. His eldest son, le Strange, who succeeded his uncle Robert at his death in the year 1602, is said to have been born in Lynn about, A.D. 1571. However this may be, Henry and his wife removed to Lynn after A.D. 1574, probably on account of the greater advantages the town offered for the education of their children; and Anne Foley was buried there on the 12th July, 1583. When Philip, Earl of Arundel, the eldest son of the fourth Duke of Norfolk, was thrown into the Tower for attempting to pass beyond the seas without the Queen's licence, a Commission was appointed to survey his lands, among which was the manor of Rysing. Henry Mordaunt was one of the witnesses examined by the Commission. He died at the close of the year 1599, and was laid beside his wife in St. Margaret's Church, Lynn.

Le Strange Mordaunt was born at a stirring period of English history. The intellectual and physical vigour of the nation, which had been stimulated by peculiar influences, was, at that time, bursting through its ancient limits, seeking new fields of exercise. The wealth of the great merchants of the country had increased enormously, and the facilities which had recently been offered them for investing their money in land had

been taken advantage of largely. In consequence, ruined noblemen were replaced as owners of the soil by men of wealth, who laid the foundation of new families of distinction and honour, which have been a source of strength to England in many of her hours of need. A few years before le Strange's birth, Sir Thomas Gresham, the owner of two of the principal manors in Great Massingham, as well as of land in Little Massingham, had founded, at his own cost, the Royal Exchange in London, which Queen Elizabeth, after dining with Sir Thomas, opened with much pomp and magnificence. Education and liberty of thought were on the increase in the kingdom. Shakspeare was revelling in the sunny hours of his boyhood, wandering amid the fields of Avon. Essex, Sidney, and Raleigh were in the full blaze of their popularity. Sir John Hawkins, Sir Francis Drake, Martin Frobisher and others, were sailing on the high seas, crippling the commerce of Spain, opening up new markets for English goods, founding colonies, and laying the foundation of England's naval supremacy. In A.D. 1585, the Earl of Leicester was despatched to Holland with an English army to help the Estates to break loose from the tyranny of Spain; to this invasion the King of Spain replied, a few years later, by hurling his unwieldy fleet against the shores of England. Yearly the sphere of adventure and commercial enterprise was extending; and, to every man in England who possessed sufficient daring and ability, was opened up a future, bright with the possibility of obtaining distinction and honour, if not of opulence and ease.

In the meanwhile the boy le Strange, in conformity with the custom of the age, was learning "the Frenche and Latine tongues, writing, plaienge att weapons, castinge of accomptes, and pastimes of instruments: while for his recreation he would

hawke and hunte and shoote in his long bowe." Now and again some fleet messenger or goodly merchant-vessel would bring to Lynn tidings from the outer world—news of the daring deeds Englishmen were performing in every quarter of the globe. The chief interest of the Mordaunts centred naturally in Ireland, where their kinsmen, Sir Nicholas and Sir Thomas le Strange, and Captain Nicholas Mordaunt, were hunting the rebels down from hill to hill and bush to bush.

Le Strange's first experience of the realities of war was gained in Flanders, where he joined the English army fighting against Spain, and, in more than one engagement, he gave promise of future distinction. The war dragged, however, and le Strange found occupation in other ways. While quartered in Antwerp, he paid his addresses to Margaret, the daughter of Peter de Charles, a Flemish gentleman, whom, at the conclusion of the war, he married and took home with him to Massingham. In the year 1598 the Irish again rose in rebellion under the leadership of the Earl of Tyrone, who was aided by Spanish men and money. The English forces in Ireland having sustained a crushing defeat, twenty thousand men were hurriedly called to arms in England and despatched to Ireland, under the command of the Earl of Essex. Le Strange sailed as one of the officers of the expedition. But the expedition did not achieve any satisfactory result while it remained under the command of Essex. Anxious to return to Court, he at length patched up a peace with the Irish, and set sail for England. Under Mountjoy, his successor, le Strange greatly distinguished himself in the fierce fights of A.D. 1600 and A.D. 1601. With the capitulation of the Spaniard, D'Aguilar, and the capture of Tyrone, the war came to an end, and le Strange returned to Massingham Hall, only to find his uncle lying at death's door.

On the 29th May, A.D. 1602, Robert Mordaunt died issueless, and le Strange succeeded to the estates. Before another year had passed away, the great grand-daughter of a former owner of Massingham Parva, to the grief of England, lay writhing in her death agony on the floor of Richmond Palace. Three years later, Margaret, le Strange's wife, was laid beside her husband's ancestors in Little Massingham Church. On the 28th September, A.D. 1608, le Strange was married again in the Church of St. John's, Maddermarket, Norwich. His second wife was Frances, the widow of Thomas Sotherton of Haylesdon and Norwich, and the daughter of Sir Robert Cheek of Debnam.

On the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot, Sir Gilbert Pickering of Tichmarsh, Northamptonshire, whose son afterwards married one of le Strange Mordaunt's grand-daughters, was particularly active in apprehending the conspirators. On account of his absence from Parliament at the time, Lord Mordaunt, a kinsman of the lord of Massingham Parva, fell under the suspicion of the Star Chamber, as being concerned in the movement, and was fined the sum of ten thousand pounds.

Within a few years James I. conceived the idea of raising money by instituting the hereditary honour of baronets. His ostensible object was to promote the colonisation of Ireland by Englishmen, and thereby to increase the civilization, effect the pacification, and develope the resources of the country. Each baronet undertook to maintain thirty soldiers in Ireland for three years, at the rate of eightpence per diem. It was, however, specially stipulated that a whole year's wages should be paid into the Royal Treasury at the time of granting the patent. Notwithstanding that it cost over one thousand pounds to purchase the honour, more than two hundred persons applied for it. The first patents were granted on the 22nd

May, A.D. 1611, and on the 29th June in the same year Sir le Strange Mordaunt obtained the title which has since remained with his direct descendants.

In the meanwhile, Sir le Strange's eldest son, Robert, had grown to man's estate, and had married Amy, the daughter of Sir Austin Sotherton. By her he had seven children, five of whom were born and baptized at Little Massingham. Of these, all, except one, grew to man and woman's estate. This child, named after his father, Robert, sickened and died at Massingham within a few weeks of his birth. About the year 1620, Robert Mordaunt received the honour of knighthood at the hands of King James, and, on the 12th June in that year, the little Church at Massingham Parva was the scene of an unusual occurrence. Sir Robert's sister, Jane, was married to Sir James Reynolds of Bumpstede, Essex, in the presence of her father, Sir le Strange, her brothers, and a numerous and distinguished company.

The next year Frances, Lady Mordaunt, the second wife of Sir le Strange, died and was buried in St. John's, Madder-market, Norwich. Within six years, her noble husband succumbed to the weight of his infirmities, though still comparatively a young man, being only fifty-five years of age, and was buried beside his first wife in Little Massingham Church.

By his will, it was ordered that Sir le Strange's property in Massingham and Congham should be divided. Massingham was to remain with the heir, while Congham was bequeathed to his second son, Henry. Henry married Barbara Calthorp, by whom he became the father of a son named, after his grandfather, le Strange Mordaunt. Barbara Calthorp died on 25th December, A.D. 1680, and was interred in Congham Church. Le Strange Mordaunt, her son, married Barbara (the daughter of Richard Catlyn, Esquire, of Kirkby-Cane) whose brother, Nevil, was a

staunch and distinguished royalist in the Civil War. Le Strange had by her a son, Henry, and a daughter, Barbara. The latter married Captain John Brown, of Scarning. She lies buried in Scarning Church under a stone which bore the inscription:—

> "In memory of Barbara, wife of John Brown, gent., daughter of L'Estrange Mordaunt of Congham, Esquire, who died May 19th, 1714: aged 36."

Le Strange Mordaunt and his wife were interred in Congham Church. Over their grave an inscribed slab was laid :—

> "In memory of l'Estrange Mordaunt, son of Henry Mordaunt, a grandson of Sir l'Estrange Mordaunt, of Norff., Bt., by Barbara, his wife, daughter of Richd. Catlyn, Esquire, he had issue Henry and a daughter, Barbara, and died, Dec. 4, in the 63rd year of his age, 1691. Here also lieth Barbara, his relict, who died April 4, 1729, aged 86."

Sir Robert Mordaunt, Kt. and Baronet, appears to have resided only occasionally at Massingham after his father's death, his favourite residence being Hempstead in Essex, one of the manors which came to him as the heir of Anne Huntingdon, the wife of William Mordaunt, his ancestor. Here he died and was buried on the 23rd August, A.D. 1638.

Sir Charles, his eldest son, who had been born at Massingham, succeeded to the title when only twenty-three years of age. Being a staunch Royalist he was soon actively engaged in the stirring scenes of the time. The dark political thunder-cloud that had long been gathering around the throne of England burst when Charles I. impeached the five members of the House of Commons (one of whom was descended from the Hollises of Flitcham), deluging the country for many years with blood. The gentlemen of West Norfolk at the outset of the campaign declared for the King, and, as Lynn was the most important town in that part of the country, immediate

steps were taken for placing it in a position to sustain a siege. Night and day men worked on the fortifications, putting them into a proper state of defence: new draw-bridges were added to the gates, several pieces of ordnance were obtained from London, and watch and ward was diligently kept in order to prevent a surprise.

Cromwell, however, was on the alert, and cognisant of the steps that were being taken in Lynn. At that time he was sweeping West Norfolk with his troop of horse, and, while busy confederating the Eastern Association, he was also dispersing royalist assemblages and seizing royalist plate. Early in March, A.D. 1642, he was at Fakenham, where he fell into an ambush, which cost him the lives of some of his men. Passing, perhaps, through Massingham Parva, in order to look up the disaffected Sir Charles Mordaunt, Cromwell is next heard of at Downham, writing on the 15th March in the same year to Cornet Squire: "I would you could get into Lynn, for I hear they are building a nest there that we must rifle I sadly fear." Lynn feeling herself strong enough to do so, at length openly declared for the King. Sir Hamon le Strange, at that time a veteran of sixty years of age, and a staunch royalist, was appointed the Governor, while gentlemen flocked into the town from the surrounding country to offer their services as volunteers in its defence. Amongst these was Sir Charles Mordaunt. In the meanwhile, the Earl of Manchester, at the head of a large army, was moving to lay siege to the town, while Cromwell was busy accumulating a supply of forage and stores for them at Swaffham. On the 17th August, A.D. 1643, Cromwell was on his way to join the Earl's forces with his troop of horse, which, however, he does not seem to have effected, his presence being urgently required in Lincolnshire. By the end of the month the Earl

of Manchester had invested Lynn. Old Lynn and Gaywood were seized, batteries for the siege guns were erected on the most advantageous sites, while eighteen thousand soldiers were drawn tightly round the town like a living girdle. The bombardment soon commenced, and so much damage and annoyance were caused by some guns near the East Gates that the Governor determined to make a sally, in order to try and silence them, as well as to dislodge the Parliamentarians from Gaywood. Having ordered a brisk fire to be opened in order to cover their advance, the drawbridge was lowered, and a selected number of volunteers suddenly issued from the East Gate. The besiegers, completely taken by surprise, fell back hastily into Gaywood, into which the Royalists chased them, firing the houses as they went; but the prompt advance of Parliamentarian supports checked their advance, and, after a faint show of resistance, the besieged were driven back in disorder to the Gates. Thereupon, the Earl of Manchester advanced his approaches still nearer the walls of the town: fresh batteries were erected on more commanding sites: boats were collected in the river, and scaling ladders in the camps: a Council of War was held, at which it was decided to assault the town simultaneously both by sea and land: orders to that effect had been issued to the different commanders, when, on the 16th September, to the surprise of every one, the white flag was hoisted, and the besieged proposed to capitulate. The same night, Lynn was occupied by a part of the army of the Parliament, and the next morning the Earl of Manchester made his triumphal entry into the town.

Two of the clauses in the treaty of capitulation provided that "the gentlemen strangers in the town should have liberty to depart, with every man a horse, sword and pistols:" and

"that neither the persons nor estates of any inhabitants or strangers now resident in Lynn should be molested for anything passed or done by them since the Earl of Manchester's coming into these parts."

Under the protection of these clauses, Sir Charles Mordaunt retired to Massingham, and a few months after, two of his sons, Henry and John, were baptized in the Parish Church. Henry only lived three days after his baptism, and in June following, Tollemache, another son, was laid in the grave beside his brother. In October, Sir Charles' mother followed them to the tomb. Sir Charles' wife, Katherine, was the widow of Drake William Playters, lord of Hardley, by whom she had had a family of six children. She was the daughter of Sir Lionel Tollemache, the then head of the venerable and illustrious Saxon family of which it is recorded :—

> "Before the Normans into England came,
> Bentley was my seat and Tollemache was my name."

Katherine Tollemache's sister, Mary, married another eminent Norfolk royalist, Roger Castell, Esqre., of Raveningham.

Not long after the capitulation of Lynn, Sir Roger le Strange, the son of Sir Hamon, formed a scheme for surprising the town and recovering it out of the hands of the Parliamentarian Governor, Colonel Walton. Having obtained the sanction of the King to the scheme, and also a Commission appointing him Governor in the event of its meeting with success, he was about to put it into execution, with the assistance of certain neighbouring gentlemen, when he was suddenly arrested, tried by court-martial, and condemned to death. While lying in prison, he was visited by Mr. Thorowgood, sometime rector of Little Massingham, who promised to use

his utmost interest to secure the reversal of the sentence and his liberation, if he would undertake to subscribe the Covenant. This he refused to do, and, after languishing in gaol for thirty months, he managed to make his escape.

For his connection with this intended rising, Sir Charles Mordaunt's estates were sequestered, in consequence of which he and his family retired to London. Here he died at the age of thirty-three, on the 10th July, A.D. 1648. His body was brought by road to Little Massingham, where, on the 15th July, it was interred in the Parish Church with due solemnity, having been saved, as his epitaph records, from the sepulchre of an exile. His widow—who bore him seven children—afterwards married Sir Charles Lee, of Billeslee, Warwick.

Five of his children outlived Sir Charles Mordaunt, but in only one of them was the line saved from becoming extinct. His youngest daughter, Amy, died unmarried two years after his decease, and was buried beside her father. Katherine and Elizabeth also died unmarried: the former lived to a ripe age, and died at Massingham Parva in May, A.D. 1705. She was the last Mordaunt interred in the Parish Church. Charles and John his sons, both inherited the baronetcy, the former dying childless.

Charles I. was already in the hands of the Parliament when Sir Charles Mordaunt, the fourth baronet, succeeded his father and, in the following January, the King paid with his head for the fatal errors of government into which he had fallen.

For some time afterwards, Sir Charles Mordaunt lived in seclusion at Massingham, although, as a staunch royalist, his sympathies were over the water with the exiled heir to the throne of England; and when in A.D. 1658 his kinsman, Mr. John Mordaunt, of the elder branch of the family, was in the neighbourhood gaining adherents to the exile's cause,

Sir Charles Mordaunt was of the number of those who promised their support, and concerning whom it was afterwards reported to Charles II. that "they were of good affection."

This John Mordaunt was a young man of great ability, who had recently married a very beautiful and accomplished lady, and both were enthusiastic royalists. Some time after, Mr. Mordaunt begged Charles II. to grant a commission for the command of a regiment of horse to a friend of his. No sooner did Cromwell discover that the commission was in Mr. Mordaunt's possession, than he caused him to be arrested and thrown into the Tower. When brought up for trial, Mr. Mordaunt impeached the legality of the court that sat to try him, and, continuing obstinate in his refusal to acknowledge its power and jurisdiction, he was sent back to prison to digest the decision that, if on the morrow he refused to plead, he would be condemned unheard. In the meantime, Mrs. Mordaunt was busy bribing the judges in her husband's favour, and, in the course of the evening, she received two messages: the one to the effect that a Colonel Mallory, who had also been arrested, was the most damaging witness against her husband; the other, that if her husband wished to save his neck he must be induced to plead. Throughout the night Mrs. Mordaunt was busy devising means for obtaining Mr. Mordaunt's acquittal. With the aid of a friend she so judiciously expended her money that, as Colonel Mallory was being conducted to the Court, a temporary confusion was created, during which he managed to slip from his guards, and, mingling with the crowd, was soon lost to sight. As her husband was entering the Court, Mrs. Mordaunt slipped a note into his hand, in consequence of which he retracted his decision of the previous day, and, after a searching examination, was acquitted. When

the verdict was reported to him, Cromwell was thrown into a great rage, and ordered Mr. Mordaunt to be reconfined in the Tower to await another trial; but this arbitrary exercise of his power caused the display of so much popular indignation that he was compelled, reluctantly, to release him.

After thus narrowly escaping the block, Mr. Mordaunt threw himself more enthusiastically than ever into the King's cause. Having obtained fresh assurances from the chief noblemen and gentlemen of the land that they would rise in the King's behalf, if the King would appoint a day and promise to join them, Mr. Mordaunt departed for Brussels in disguise to report the matter to Charles. There were, said Mr. Mordaunt, very few counties in the which the most powerful men had not formed a scheme for seizing one of the most important towns. The best digested and the most promising of success was that for surprising Lynn, and which had been entrusted to Lord Willoughby of Parham, Sir Horatio Townshend, Sir Robert Walpole, Sir Charles Mordaunt and others. Already the haven of Lynn was being fortified, while forces were being secretly levied and drilled ready for use; and the gentlemen of the County only waited the signal to rise.

On hearing this, and similar reports from the west of England, Charles proposed a certain day in the middle of July, A.D. 1659, when he would be in readiness at Calais to embark for England. On returning to England Mr. Mordaunt communicated to the Royalists the King's resolution ; but, on the day appointed, such a terrible storm burst over England, that few of the King's adherents were able to reach the place of rendezvous; while, to add to the general dismay, Lord Willoughby, Sir Horatio Townshend and others were arrested by order of the Commonwealth.

But the current of loyal feeling in the country, although diverted for a time, was gradually returning to the old channels. Through Mr. Mordaunt several members of the Council and numerous officers of the army tendered their services to Charles; and at last, General Monk transmitted through the same hands certain letters to the King, the result of which was the issue of the famous Declaration of Breda, and the recall of Charles to occupy the vacant throne. The next time Mr. Mordaunt touched the shores of England, he brought in his pocket a patent creating him Viscount Avalon.

Four years after the Restoration, which was celebrated at Lynn (and doubtless at Massingham) with much festivity, Sir Charles Mordaunt died, and was buried at Little Massingham, being at the time only twenty-five years of age. He married Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of Mr. Nicholas Johnson, of London. His wife's uncle, Sir William Turner, a merchant of the Drapers' Company, became Lord Mayor of London. His widow—by whom he had no family—afterwards married Francis Godolphin, Esq., of Colston, Wilts.

Sir John, the fifth baronet, was born at Little Massingham, and was only twenty years of age at his brother's death. His first wife was Anne, daughter of William Risley, Esq., of the Friary, Bedfordshire. She bore him a daughter, Penelope, who died in her infancy, and was buried at Massingham Parva; and his wife was laid beside her two years after. After this, Sir John Mordaunt seems to have quitted Massingham and to have retired to Walton, which has since been the favourite residence of his descendants. His second wife was Penelope, the daughter of Sir George Warburton, Bart., of Arley, Cheshire. She bore him two sons and two daughters. Catherine, his younger daughter, married Dr. Dobson,

Warden of Winchester College; while Penelope, the elder, married Joseph Herne, Esq. Sir John Mordaunt sat in several Parliaments in the reigns of William and Mary, and of Anne, as one of the Knights of the Shire of Warwick. He died at Walton in A.D. 1721, at the age of seventy-eight, having lived from the fourth year of Charles II. to the eighth of George I.

During his life his eccentric but gifted and famous kinsman, Charles Mordaunt, was alternately throwing England into ecstasies of delight and paroxysms of despair. Having deserted the cause of James II., and having been created Earl of Monmouth by William III., he was, after holding several high offices in the State, committed to the Tower. Hence he emerged a ruined man; but, by consummate ability and diligence, he retrieved his fortunes, and, by the death of his uncle, became Earl of Peterborough. In A.D. 1705 he was despatched to Spain with an English and Dutch army, in order to take part in the war of the Spanish succession. After gaining the most splendid victories over overwhelming numbers with a handful of men, and reducing, in an extraordinary manner, several of the strongest fortresses in Spain, he suddenly, in a fit of pique, threw up his command and quitted the country. After travelling restlessly through Europe, "seeing more kings and postillions than any other man of his day," he returned to England and was made Commander-in-Chief of the naval forces of Great Britain. Subsequently, having married an actress, he retired to Portugal, and died at Lisbon of extreme age and decay, breathing his last amid the mournful thunder of the guns of Sir John Norris' fleet. As a genius and wit he held his own with Pope, Swift, and Prior.

Charles Mordaunt, the eldest son of Sir John, married in A.D. 1720 the daughter of Sir John Conyers, Bart., of Walthamstow, Essex, and the next year, on his father's decease, he succeeded to the title. By his first wife, he had two daughters, both of whom died unmarried. His second wife, whom he married in the year 1730, was the only daughter of Sir John Wodehouse, Baronet, of Kimberley. She died within eight years of her marriage, leaving by him two sons and two daughters. Sir Charles' eldest son, John, eventually succeeded him, while his other son, Charles, who entered Holy Orders, was presented to the family living of Little Massingham. The son of the latter, also called Charles, was the last Mordaunt born and baptized at Massingham. Sir Charles was elected a Knight of the Shire of Warwick, and represented it in Parliament for nearly fifty years. He died in the year 1778.

Sir John Mordaunt, the seventh baronet, married Elizabeth, the daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Prowse of Axbridge, Somerset, by whom he became the father of eight children. He was one of the grooms of the bedchamber, M.P. for the County of Warwick, and LL.D. He died on the 18th November, 1806.

His eldest son, Charles, married Louisa Chester in November, A.D. 1793, and in 1807, Mary Anne, the eldest daughter of William Holbech, Esq., of Farnborough, Warwickshire. By the latter, he had a son and heir, John, and two daughters. The connection of the Mordaunts with Massingham, which had continued during nearly three centuries, was now fast drawing to a close. Sir Charles, the eighth baronet, who had succeeded his father at his death in 1806, proposed to sell the estate and the advowson of the living, and in A.D. 1807

it was purchased by Joseph Wilson, Esq., of Highbury Hill, Middlesex.

Mr. Wilson was a rich and prosperous merchant, the son of Thomas Wilson, Esq., of Highbury Place. His first wife, Mary Anne, the eldest daughter of Robert Maitland, Esq., of Blue Stile, Greenwich, a West India merchant, was married to him on the 10th July, 1792. After her death he married on the 19th February, 1800, Emma, the eldest daughter of John Welford, Esq., of Blackheath. After purchasing Little Massingham, although he often visited the village, Mr. Wilson never lived there, having selected for his place of residence Stowlangtoft Hall, Suffolk, which he had bought from Sir George Wombwell.

Mr. Wilson's son and heir, Henry, was born on the 27th August, 1797, and on the 29th July, 1824, he married Mary Fuller, the eldest daughter of Ebenezer Fuller Maitland, Esq., of Park Place, Henley-on-Thames. His second wife, whom he married on 18th May, 1839, was Caroline, the only daughter of the Reverend the Lord Henry Fitzroy, Prebendary of Westminster, Rector of Easton, Suffolk, and brother to the Duke of Grafton. Henry Wilson was High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1845, and M.P. for West Suffolk. By his first wife he had several children, the eldest of whom, Fuller Maitland Wilson, was born on the 27th August, 1825. He married in 1852 Agnes Caroline, the daughter of the Right Honourable Sir R. T. Kindersley, by whom he had several children, his eldest son, Arthur Maitland, being born on the 16th June, 1857. Mr. Fuller Maitland Wilson, was Lieutenant-Colonel of the West Suffolk Militia, and in 1873 was made High Sheriff of the County.

In 1872 Mr. Fuller Maitland Wilson sold the estate of

Little Massingham, and it was bought by Mr. William James Goulton, a land speculator. The latter also purchased the small pieces of land in the Parish which belonged to Messrs. T. W. and E. Coke, Mr. J. Raven, and the Marquis of Cholmondeley. The same year Mr. Goulton resold the estate.

The major part, consisting of one thousand five hundred and twenty-one acres, together with the advowson of the living, was purchased by Mr. William Walker, at that time a merchant of Hull; five hundred and ten acres were bought by Mr. T. B. Dring of Claxby, near Spilsby, Lincolnshire, while the remainder, in lots of eighty-six, forty-one, thirteen, and five acres, were bought respectively by Mr. R. Mossop, Mr. W. Naylor, Mr. R. Blyth, and Mr. Thomas Foster. William Walker, Esq., the present lord of the manor, is a native of the Parish of Boston, Lincolnshire, and is the head of the noted firm of Messrs. William Walker and Son of King's Lynn.

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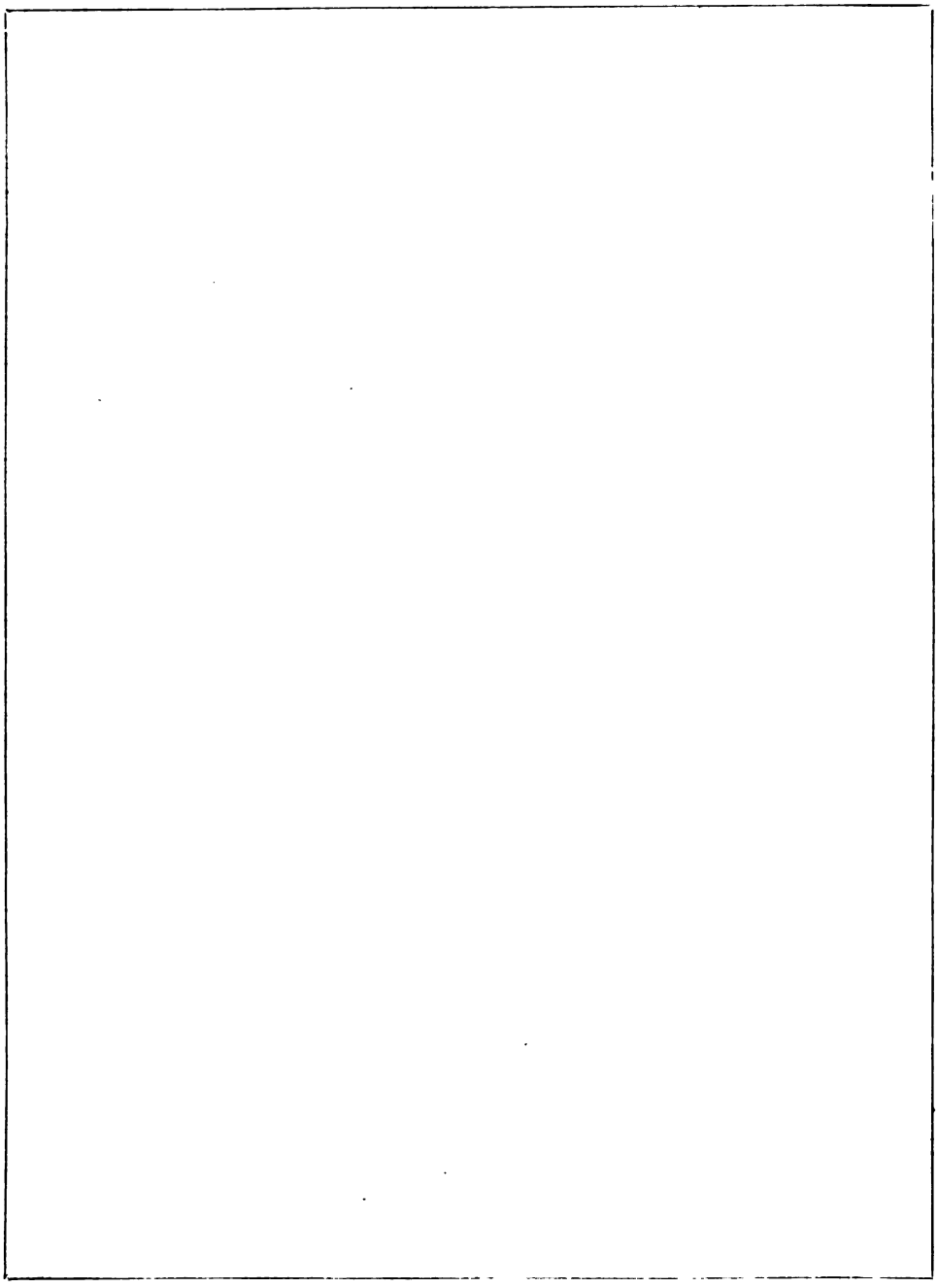

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DISTINGUISHED RESIDENTS

IN THE PARISH.

ALTHOUGH at the present day there are no gentry residing in Little Massingham, yet formerly the Parish was better off in this respect. This is proved by the traces of buildings of considerable extent existing in different parts of the Parish, as well as by the entries in the Parish Register. The de Thorpes, undoubtedly, had a Manor House here, and a Hall existed in the time of the Mordaunts. In addition, buildings of some pretension must have been erected for the different gentlemen of position who dwelt at Massingham early in the seventeenth century. Little Massingham Hall, a quaint old-fashioned building, situated near the present Hall Farm, existed up to the present century, when, on account of its dilapidated condition, it was demolished by Mr. Wilson's order. The foundations can still be traced on dry summers amid the grass. In the field called Church Piece Furlong, huge blocks of masonry have been unearthed and removed in

order to make way for the plough. Whether these are portions of an ancient Church, as tradition affirms, or the remains of a Castle or fortified dwelling, is uncertain. The position in which they were found, near the old Roman highway to the sea, seems to favour the latter presumption. Wells, and mounds covering the foundations of buildings, also exist in the fields near the Church and the Summer Wood. The following are short accounts of some members of distinguished families who, at one time and another, have themselves resided, or have been connected with residents, in Massingham Parva.

Sir William Hollis, the ancestor of the illustrious family of Hollis, Dukes of Newcastle, was born at Stoke, Warwickshire, about the year 1471. At an early age he went to London, where by his industry, integrity and providence he laid the foundation of the future greatness of his family. Having been made a member of the Mercers' Company he was elected Sheriff of London (19 Henry VIII.), and in A.D. 1533 he was knighted by the King. Seven years later, he was elected Lord Mayor of London, in which capacity, attended by the aldermen and councillors of the City, he received Anne of Cleves, on her entrance into London, with a "magnificent display of orations, pageants and compliments of State." Amongst other estates, which his great wealth enabled Sir William Hollis to purchase, was the manor of Flitcham. This he bought in 1539 from Sir Richard Cromwell. In 1542 Sir William Hollis died, leaving four children—Thomas, William, Francis and Anne. His youngest son, Francis, died the next year; William, his second and favourite son, settled at Haughton in Derbyshire, in which county, as well as in those of Nottingham and Lincoln, vast possessions were bequeathed to him by his father. From him descended the two families of the Earls of Clare and the Barons Hollis.

Sir Thomas Hollis, the eldest son, was a son of misfortune, and by his lavishness and his improvidence ruined both himself and his posterity. His father left him a very fair estate, yet he lived to spend it all and to die at last in prison. His marriage with Ann Payne, one of Queen Catherine's maids of honour, the daughter of Richard Payne of Castle Acre, standard bearer to Henry VIII., was an unfortunate one. The only issue of the marriage was a son, William. Thomas Hollis was summoned to attend the coronation of Edward VI. in Westminster Abbey, and appeared at the ceremony with a magnificent company of seventy followers. Two days later, both he and his brother William, were knighted by the King. On coming into the possession of Poinings Manor, Flitcham, Sir Thomas passed it, together with the lordship of Barneston, by fine to Henry Ward for £2,900; but his wife being jointured therein, and her father, Richard Payne, not agreeing thereto, it came into the possession of the Payne family, and from thence passed into the hands of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. Soon after this, Sir Thomas Hollis was arrested on a writ of execution for debt, his lands were sold, and he was thrown into prison, where he subsequently died.

The Lady Ann Hollis, his widow, became the second wife of Philip Mordaunt of Little Massingham, and lies buried in the Parish Church. Her son, William Hollis, also took up his residence at Massingham Parva, after his marriage with Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Edward Flowerdewe, one of the Barons of the Exchequer. By her he had four children—Edward, Francis, Ann and Elizabeth—the two latter being born and baptized at Little Massingham. Elizabeth the youngest child, was baptized in January, 1568 ; and, on the 2nd August in the same year, Amy Flowerdewe, his wife's sister, was married at Little Massingham to Michael Heath, a descendant

of the Thomas Heath, who married Elizabeth, the daughter of William Mordaunt. Concerning the melancholy fate of William Hollis' grandchild, Gervase Hollis of Grimsby writes thus in A.D. 1658: "Edward's son came when I was a boy to see my father to desire something from him, being then in a wanting condition. He was about fifty years of age. In his youth he had been a soldier in the Netherlands, and, returning to England, married a Lancashire gentlewoman. The Earl of Clare gave to this Hollis, his kinsman, a good lease near Haughton, where he lived until his wife died; but after her death, I know not on what discontent, the Earl took it away from him, and then he fell into very great poverty, and, shortly after, died. He had by his wife a son, Francis, and a daughter: which Francis, whilst he was a little boy, lost both father and mother and was exposed unto the most wretched condition, till the Earl of Clare, hearing of him in London, ordered his servants to bring him to his house, and caused him to be handsomely clad, and sent him to Haughton to be taught to read and write and learn French, in order that he might become his page. It is observable how soon the change in his condition altered his spirit: for, in a very short space, he was grown a very haughty and proud boy; and, understanding what he might have been, had his ancestors had more wisdom, he began to look with contempt on the other gentlemen, his fellow-servants. The Earl of Clare, telling me that to breed him a serving man was but to send him to his grave a beggar, asked my opinion into what calling he should place him. I told him I should like a merchant best, as, if it pleased God, he might the likeliest recover an estate, as his ancestors had done. The Earl replied that it would require a round sum of money to bind him an apprentice, and a good stock to set him up,

neither of which he was inclined to contribute. So he bound him apprentice to a jeweller in Foster Lane, with whom he abode some years, until, debauched by a neighbouring apprentice, both of them ran away, and for these seventeen years he has not been seen that I could hear of. Most likely he is dead, or else these late troubles in England would have probably brought him abroad again." We shall hardly find in any family a greater example of the mutability of fortune: for the ancestor of this poor boy had a revenue from his father worth at this day at the least ten thousand pounds per annum, and had been sometime attended by a train of seventy followers. Thus ended this branch of the Hollises.

Early in the sixteenth century a Thomas Callabut was living at Little Massingham, where a son was born to him, A.D. 1563. The Callabuts were an ancient Norfolk family which had settled at Castle Acre as early as the reign of Henry VI., and Callabuts' Chapel in St. James' Church in that town was the family burial place. One Francis Callabut in 1509 gave a tenement and thirty-three acres of land to be applied in paying the fifteenths and other taxes of the poor of Hillington and of East Walton. Catherine, the mother of Edward Walpole, who owned land in Massingham Parva, was a Callabut.

At the same time, two members of the ancient family of Ratclyffe were living at Little Massingham. This family first came into Norfolk about A.D. 1411. John Ratclyffe, the founder of the House, married the heiress of Lord Fitz-Walter, and obtained thereby the extensive Fitz-Walter estates. For his services to the King he was knighted, and, eventually, raised to the peerage as Lord Fitz-Walter. Having espoused the cause of the House of York in the Wars of the Roses he was

appointed to guard the passage at Ferry-bridge. Here he was slain in a surprise effected by the enemy, having only time to snatch up hastily a pole-axe as he rose unarmed from his bed. Both his brother and his son declared in favour of Perkin Warbeck, and, having been taken prisoners, were tried and executed. The estates remained confiscated until Henry VIII. restored them to Robert Ratcliffe, the grandson of Sir John, whom he successively created Lord Fitz-Walter, Viscount Fitz-Walter and Earl of Sussex.

During the thirty years preceding the Restoration the following gentlemen and their households were living at Massingham Parva, besides the families of Sir Charles Mordaunt and of the Rector:—

Thomas Chunne, James Fitz-Garold, Robert Cremer, William Peim, Charles Perkins, and Hugh Hovell.

Margaret, the daughter of William Mordaunt, married Edmund Chunne. Richard Chunne, possibly their grandson, settled at Massingham Parva, where three children were born to him, Thomas, his heir, being baptized on 20th May, 1593. Richard Chunne died at Massingham early in March, 1623. Thomas Chunne died unmarried, and was buried at Little Massingham on the 28th January, 1631. James Fitz-Garold married Katherine, the daughter of Richard Chunne, and died at Massingham after sixteen years' residence.

Robert Cremer, and Temperance his wife, resided at Little Massingham at least from A.D. 1631 to A.D. 1649, during which time a family of twelve children was born to them. Robert Cremer was a member of the celebrated family of that name which had settled at Snettisham in the reign of Elizabeth. The then head of the house was John Cremer, who was a large landowner. He married Anne Tash, by whom he

became the father of seven children. At his death, in the year 1610, he was buried in Snettisham Church, and over his remains was placed a brass, with effigies of himself, his wife and his children, bearing the inscription :—

> "Si quis præteriens rogitabit forte viator
> Memoriæ cujus hic lapis est positus,
> Cremerus veræ cultor pietatis, alumnus
> Virtutis, vindex, conditur hoc tumulo."

John Cremer, his eldest son, was knighted, and in 1660 was made High Sheriff of the County. He married Margaret, the daughter of William Boyton of Flitcham. Robert Cremer, of Massingham Parva may have been one of his sons. Francis, another of his sons, married the daughter of John Pell of Dersingham. Before this John Pell two declarations of their consent to marriage were made by certain parishioners of Little Massingham, at the period during the Civil War when the celebration of marriages in the Parish Church was suspended by order of the Parliament. George Cremer, a third son, purchased the manor of North Runcton, of which Setch formed a part, from Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick. George and his wife, Elizabeth, were buried in Setch Church, the former in 1656, the latter in 1624. Their son John, who was afterwards knighted, died at the advanced age of eighty-nine years, and lies buried in Ely Cathedral. Some of the Cremers settled in Lynn, one of the family being Customer of the Port.

Hugh Hovell, who, with Elizabeth his wife, lived at Little Massingham from 1652 to 1662, had a son and daughter born to him there, and buried there both of these, together with a third child. The Hovells were a family of very great antiquity. In the reign of William the Conqueror they were settled in

Suffolk, and held lands of the Abbot of Bury. William Hovell of Rishanger, Suffolk, who died in A.D. 1433, married Beatrix, the daughter of Sir John de Thorpe, lord of Little Massingham. About the year 1576 Richard Hovell owned Rydon, and ten years later, Philip, Earl of Arundel, demised to him for a term of years Flitcham House, late the site of the Priory, together with certain manors. Flitcham Priory was an Augustinian cell founded by Sir Robert Aiguillon, in the reign of Henry III., for canons of the Augustinian order. At the dissolution, it was granted to Edward, Lord Clinton: soon afterwards it came into the possession of Richard Cromwell, who alienated it to Sir William Hollis: from him it passed to the Paines and thence to the Duke of Norfolk, as mentioned before.

Richard Hovell, the son of the above, after the death of his father in 1611, came into the possessions of all his lands. Amongst these was an estate in Hillington; and, in accordance with the fashion, which had been set in Elizabeth's reign, of building large houses in the country, he commenced the present Hillington Hall, which was completed in the year 1627. Richard Hovell, by the King's command, also built the Hospital at Rysing, for which he received in payment the sum of £451. 14s. 2d. Catherine, one of his daughters, after the death of her first husband, is said to have married Edward Mordaunt, the son of Philip Mordaunt of Massingham Parva.

Richard, the son and heir of the above Richard Hovell, was knighted at Whitehall by King Charles I. in 1641, and, by the marriage of his grand-daughter, Dorothy, with Martin Ffolkes, a Bencher of Gray's Inn, the estates of the family passed into the hands of the latter, with whose descendants they have since remained.

On the 20th January, A.D. 1619, the marriage of Sir George

Southcoate with Frances Sotherton, a relative of the second wife of Sir le Strange Mordaunt, was solemnized in the Little Massingham Church. The newly-married pair almost immediately after took up their residence in the village, where the year following their eldest son, Thomas, was born.

Sir Thomas Wodehouse, a direct ancestor of the Earl of Kimberley, was married at Little Massingham to Anne, the second daughter of Sir William Airmine of Osgodby, Lincolnshire, on the 28th September, 1666. About a month after his marriage, Thomas Wodehouse was knighted by Charles II. On the 2nd February, 1668, a daughter, Anne, was born to him, and in March the year following a son, John. Not long afterwards Sir Thomas caught the small-pox, and succumbed to the disease at Kimberley in 1671. He lies buried in the Parish Church there, and on his tomb is the inscription :—

> "Thomas Wodehouse Eques Auratus Phillippi Wodehouse Baronetti (id nominis secundi) primogenitus, litterarum, humanitatis, virtutum exemplar, cum illustrem familiam (e qua per directam supra viginti equitum auratorum et baronettorum seriem transmissus) magis illustrasset, et se meliori seculo dignum ostendisset, tricesimo tertio peregrinationis suæ anno (quo vivere plerique vix incipiunt) nondum peracto, orbos Parentes, viduam uxorem castissimam Annam (filiam et cohæredem Gulielmi Armyn in agro Lincolniensi Baronetti) orphanos liberos lugentes omnes relinquens, Patriam cœlestem petiit vicesmo nono die Aprilis anno Salvatoris Christi MDCLXXI."

Lady Wodehouse, after the death of Sir Thomas, re-married twice. Her second husband was Thomas, Lord Crew of Stene, by whom she had four daughters, the eldest of whom married Henry de Grey, Duke of Kent, and the youngest Charles, Earl of Arran. Her third husband was Arthur, Earl of Torrington.

Anne, Sir Thomas Wodehouse's only daughter, married, at the age of eighteen, Sir Nicholas le Strange of Hunstanton and Gressenhall. Anne became the mother of five children: Hamon the eldest son died while travelling in Italy: Sir Thomas, the second, married Anne the daughter of Sir Christopher Calthorp, but died issueless; Henry, the third son, and the last of the long line of baronets of the le Stranges, married Mary, the daughter of the Honourable Roger North of Rougham, but died without leaving any family. Of the two daughters, Airmine married Nicholas Styleman, the heir of the manor of Snettisham, one of whose sons became rector of Massingham Parva; while Lucy married Sir Jacob Astley of Melton Constable.

Both Sir Nicholas le Strange and Anne Wodehouse lie buried in the chancel of Gressenhall Church, which contains the following inscriptions to their memory:—

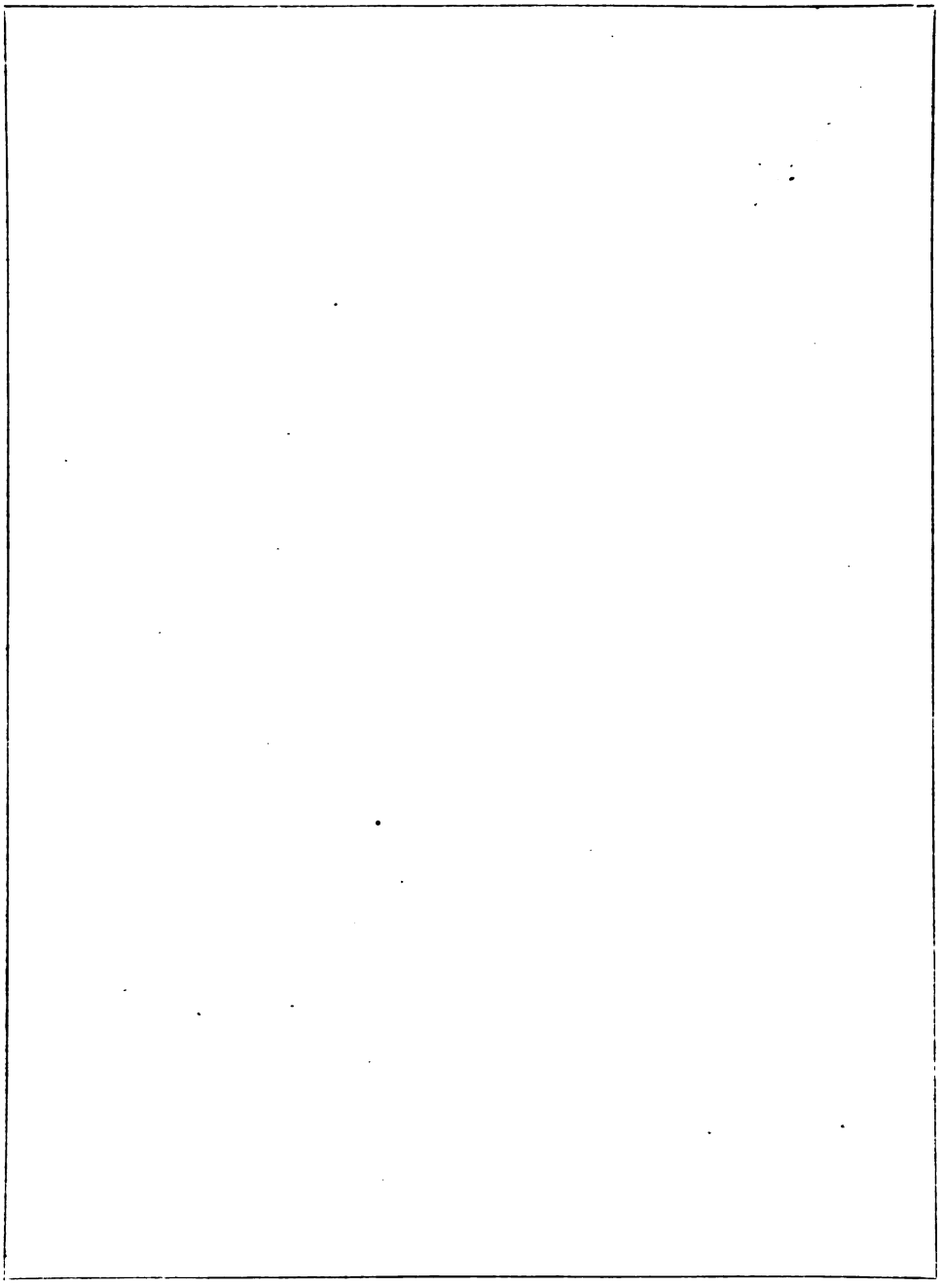
> "Sir Nicholas le Strange, Baronet, son of Sir Nicholas le Strange and Dame Mary his wife, born on the 2nd December, 1661, married to Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Wodehouse and Dame Anne his wife, on the 2nd day of December, 1686; died at Gressenhale, on the 18th day of December, 1724."

> "Dame Ann, relict of Sir Nicholas l'Estrange, Baronet, only daughter of Sir Thomas Wodehouse of Kimberley, Kt., and of Dame Ann, second daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Airmine, of Osgodby, in Lincolnshire, born the 2nd February, 1668, died at Gressenhale, the 10th of April, 1727, and lies interred by her loving husband. She was a lady of most extensive charity, whose memory will long outlast this monument."

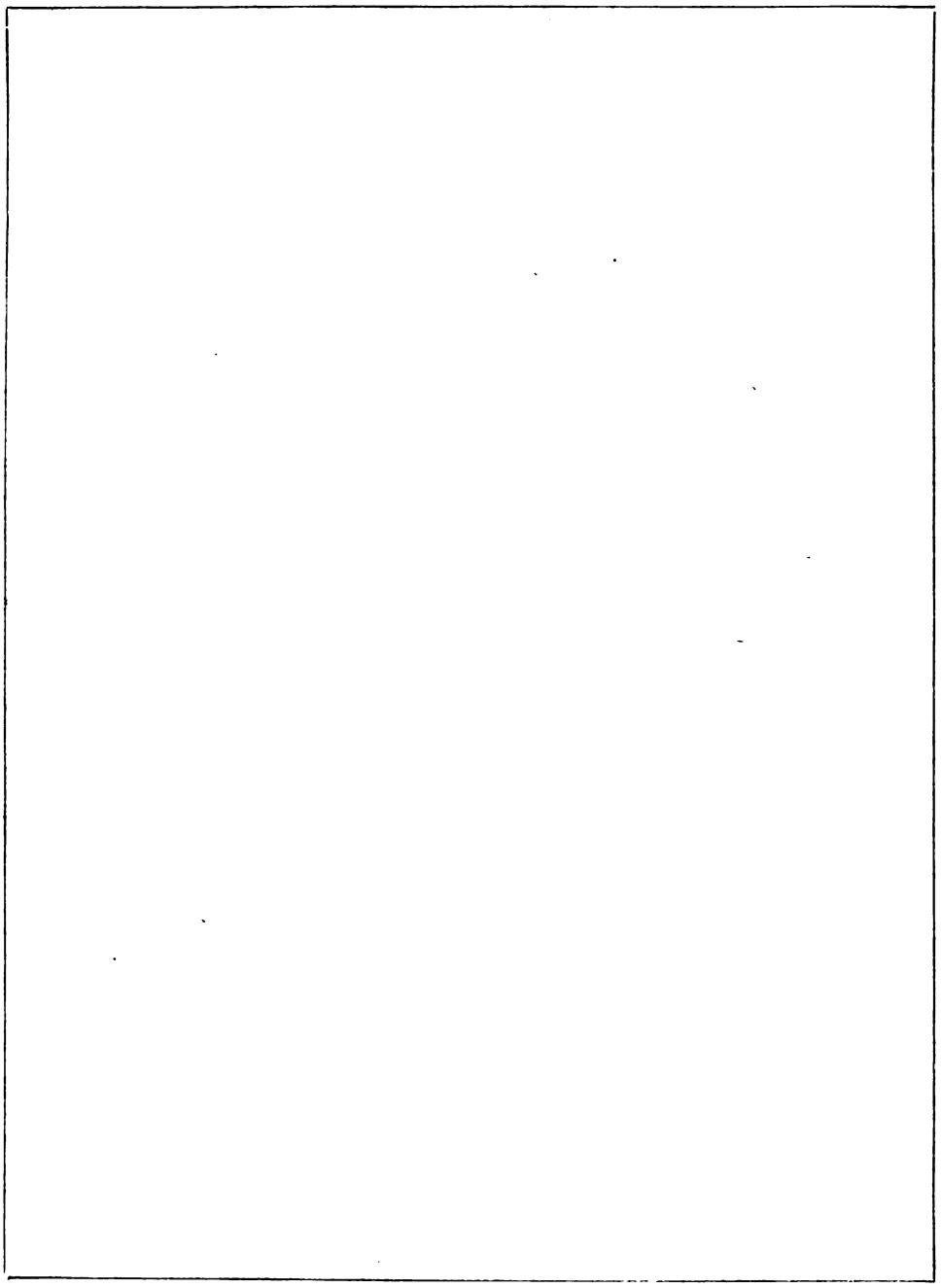
Sir Thomas Wodehouse's son, John, was only two years of age at his father's death. In 1695 he was elected a Burgess in Parliament for the borough of Thetford, of which town he was afterwards appointed Recorder. In 1701 and in 1705 he was re-elected to represent Thetford in Parliament, and, in the ninth year of Queen Anne, he was made a Knight of the Shire. By

his first wife, Elizabeth, the sister of John, Lord Bingley, he had no children; by his second, Mary, the only daughter of William, Lord Lempster, he had four. Sophia, his only daughter, became the second wife of Sir Charles Mordaunt, the sixth baronet, of Little Massingham, and the mother of Sir John Mordaunt, the seventh baronet, and the Reverend Charles Mordaunt, rector. Sir Airmine Wodehouse, the brother of Sophia, married Letitia, the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir Edmund Bacon, of Garboldisham; and Mary Bacon, another daughter of Sir Edmund, presented the Reverend Charles Mordaunt, in 1760, to certain livings in her gift.

The Reverend William Nelson, Rector of Hillington, who was married to Mary Newton, of Little Massingham, in Little Massingham Church, on April 3rd, 1761, was the first cousin of the Reverend Edmund Nelson, the father of Horatio Nelson, the hero of the Nile and of Trafalgar. The Reverend William Nelson was the son of William Nelson, Esq., of Dunham Parva and Curds Hall, Fransham. At his father's decease, he inherited his estates; and, in addition to the living of Hillington, held in plurality that of Hilgay. By his wife, Mary Newton, he left three daughters, the eldest of whom inherited his estates.



PAROCHIAL INFORMATION.



PAROCHIAL INFORMATION.

AT the time of the Great Survey of England, Great and Little Massingham formed one township. On account of the name being anciently written indifferently Masincham and Marsincham, Blomefield supposes its derivation to be the town on a wet or marshy common; but all signs of marsh have long since disappeared. The Parish is in the Lynn division of the hundred of Freebridge, and lies on the high-road between Lynn and Fakenham. It is bounded on the north by the Parish of Harpley, on the east by that of Rudham, on the south by that of Great Massingham, and on the west by Hillington, Congham, and Grimston. In the immediate neighbourhood are Sandringham Hall, the country residence of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; Houghton Hall, one of the seats of the Marquis of Cholmondeley; Rainham Hall, the residence of the Marquis Townshend; Hillington Hall, the residence of Sir William Ffolkes; besides the Halls of Anmer, West Acre, Narford, and Narborough.

By the Tithe Commissioners' Deed of 1838, the size of the Parish is stated to be 2,278 acres, 1 rood and 38 perches

of land, statute measure. This was at the time distributed as follows:—

	A.	R.	P.
Arable land	2,047	0	12
Meadow land	97	0	7
Woodland	80	0	0
Glebe	33	0	9
Roads	21	1	10

The quantity of cultivated land subject to the payment of tithes was 2,080 acres, 21 perches.

At the present time, there are twenty-four inhabited cottages in the Parish, besides the Rectory, three farm-houses, the public-house, the railway-station, and two huts at the railway crossings. Formerly, several cottages clustered round the edge of the village pond, which at that time was a village green. The cottages, however, were not good. Both sexes, and of all ages, were crowded together in an improper manner. On a representation of the evil to Mr. Wilson, the Rev. C. D. Brereton was permitted to pull them down, and to expend a considerable sum in building the Bay Cottages instead. Here the labourers were housed at a rental varying from £1. 10s. to £3 per annum. Several miserable shanties originally occupied the site of the High Park Cottages, one of which was reserved by Mr. Wilson as a kind of alms-house for the oldest ailing parishioner, who received in addition an allowance of 2s. 6d. a-week. When the new cottages were built this benevolent scheme came to an end. These cottages bear the inscription:

H. W.
1855.

The population of the village at different periods during the present century has been:—

A.D.	
1801	93
1811	101
1821	125
1831	165
1841	152
1851	134
1861	132
1871	122
1881	135

The total number of births, marriages, and deaths during each period of fifty years, from the first year of Elizabeth to 1857, is as follows:—

A.D.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1558—1607	107	43	86
1608—1657	116	27	103
1658—1707	90	32	80
1708—1757	145	43	123
1758—1807	135	56	114 *
1808—1857	206	37	96+53

*Interments of residents in neighbouring parishes.

The Rectory is an old-fashioned rambling house, pleasantly situated in the Church Close, on the slope of a hill overlooking the country as far as Sandringham. It bears traces of having been added to from time to time. On a plate let into the western wall of the house is the dated lettering $\frac{\text{C. M.}}{1772}$ referring to its foundation or restoration by either the Reverend Charles Mordaunt or his father. On the east side, the house is screened by a fine avenue of beech trees, which communicates with the Church: on the north-west is a shrubbery and the

garden: while across the road, in what is now called the Summer Wood, are traces of the stately and picturesque Pleasaunce of the Mordaunts. According to the parish terriers the house and its outbuildings stand on 2 roods, 30 perches of ground; the garden occupies 1 acre, 1 rood, 35 perches; and the Church Close, which is laid down in pasture and well-timbered, 29 acres, 3 roods, 4 perches.

The living is a discharged rectory. The ancient value was 15 marks; and Peter's Pence to the amount of ten pence was paid. The following entry occurs in the King's Book:—

Clear Yearly Value.				King's Books
£45	0	0	Mass. Parva Rect. (discharged) Archidiac	£9 13 4
80	0	0	6/8 Episc. 1/4 Sir John Mordaunt 1715. Sir Charles Mordaunt 1725. Sir John Mordaunt 1779	

In 1838 the tithes were commuted into a rent charge, the gross amount being £570, and the net £515.

The population of Little Massingham being so small, and the number of children under ten years of age averaging only a dozen, an independent National School has been unnecessary. That of Great Massingham, being only one mile distant, supplies all the wants of Little Massingham, independent of the fact that an ancient endowment has made some provision for the education of the male children. In the year 1676, Charles Calthorpe tied up a portion of the estate he owned in Great Massingham, to the value of £20, for the endowment of a Free School in Great Massingham. By this deed it is ordered that the master of the school shall be bound to teach twenty-five boys, if there are so many, of the parishes of Great and Little Massingham, and Harpley; and, if those parishes are unable to supply the number, then Rudham is to

be allowed to make up the deficiency The appointment of the master is vested in the hands of the rectors of Great and Little Massingham, and of Harpley. The school was held originally in a room which once existed above the porch of Great Massingham Church, and is rendered famous by the fact that the brilliant Horace Walpole received there the rudiments of his education. In 1837 the present National School was built, and the Free School consolidated with it. The sum of £20 is still annually paid to the funds of the School by the Earl of Leicester, who owns the Calthorpe estate. A contribution of £10 a year on behalf of Little Massingham is made to the school by the lord of the manor and the rector.

The state of education in Little Massingham in 1826 is thus described by the Rev. C. D. Brereton: "There are only two labourers in the parish who can read. We have had some difficulty in filling up the parish offices of constable and clerk. It has been a work of difficulty to induce the parents to permit their children to be taught. Had I not possessed advantages, my attempts must have failed. More than two years passed away before instruction was generally accepted. Now, the labourers begin to take a pride and a pleasure in their cottages, gardens, families, and even their work. They subscribe a considerable sum annually to provide themselves clothing; they subscribe a trifle for other benevolent purposes; they increase from year to year, by little and little, their stock of furniture; they embrace the means of instruction for their children, some of whom now teach their parents to read."

On the left hand side of the high-road leading from Little Massingham to Harpley, on the brow of the hill which descends

sharply to the railway station, is a wooden erection, which is of some interest in the educational world of Norfolk. In it, when it stood near the Rectory, were the class-rooms of the Infant Norfolk County School.

THE PARISH BOOK

Commences with this century, and the first page is filled with a list of the labourers belonging to the parish, to each of whose names a weekly sum, fixed by the magistrates, is annexed, under the title of "flour money." In 1820 the names of all the labourers, without exception, appear. But gradually the tide of pauperism receded, and family after family was restored to comparative independence. The following are the entries during six years showing the gradual decline of the number receiving relief out of the rate:—

A.D.	Entries of Relief.
1820	617
1821	587
1822	503
1823	411
1824	366
1825 three quarters of a year	230

In 1803 the money raised by the Parish Rates was £149. 5s. at 3s. in the pound.

In 1817 the rate was £333; in 1818, £391; in 1821, £181; and in 1824, £253. In this last year the rate was increased by accidents, and an unusual church and surveyor's rate.

"In 1824 the villages of Norfolk were not the quiet orderly places they are now. In Great Massingham in that year there were cases of burglary, issuing of base coin, sheep-, pig-, corn and fowl-stealing, besides poaching and other offences. The house of one of the labourers was searched, and in it were

found base coin, silver and gold, corn and other articles, the apparatus for house-breaking,—vice, files, dark lantern and fifty picklock-keys, which would open almost all the locks in both parishes. It was customary for most of the labourers to spend their nights gaming at this house. During the same time three persons were transported from Great Massingham, and many others imprisoned.

"It is true (said a magistrate of the Freebridge hundred) there was nearly an insurrection in 1823. Some of the peasantry in the County attacked the house of a magistrate and committed other acts of violence in consequence of some misunderstanding respecting the modern semi-feudal regulations for their maintenance. Three of the unfortunate ringleaders were executed at Norwich. The disaffection spread, and, in the neighbourhood of Great and Little Massingham, it assumed a serious aspect. Many of the labourers of Little Massingham joined the movement, although in constant employment, having been induced to do so by the advice of the demagogues of the period, who informed them that, if they went to the magistrates in a body, the magistrates and the farmers would be intimidated, and the allowance and the wages would be raised. Yet the time of the disaffection was the moment of prosperity for the working class—the year in which they were in a position to purchase more meat and comforts than in any other."

One of the peculiar signs in Little Massingham at the time when the Rev. C. D. Brereton became rector was the perpetual discontent and irritation of mind existing between the labourers and their employers, the cause of which was the interference of the magistracy between the work and the wages of the labourer.

"It seems probable that the proportion of arable land to pasture was greater before than for some time after the Reformation. During the reign of Elizabeth and afterwards the enclosure of pasture land was discouraged, arable land was in fact converted into pasture, and the production of corn increased by an improved husbandry. A greater supply of meat, the consumption of which greatly increased after the Reformation, was afforded by attention to pastures. The quantity of arable land did not much increase until after the Revolution, from which time there has been a great quantity of land enclosed and brought under cultivation. At the Revolution probably not more than one-half, or perhaps one-third, of Little Massingham was cultivated as arable land, a great proportion was pasture, and a more considerable part heath and sheep walks. The ancient names of the fields and many other local proofs establish this fact. Early in this century there was scarcely any enclosed and fenced land in Little Massingham. In 1820 an old shepherd was living in the Parish whose forefathers had been from time immemorial gamekeepers and shepherds, and who used to point out some of the best farms of the neighbourhood as the walks over which he, as a shepherd boy, used to lead his flocks."

There have also been great changes in the mode of cultivating the arable land, occasioned by the introduction of marling and the cultivation of turnips. The former has to a considerable extent ceased in consequence of the great expense connected with its use; the latter has been more successful and beneficial in its results than its introducer, Lord Viscount Charles Townshend, could ever have imagined, and, according to the farming phrase, it has been the making of the county. The produce of the soil has been considerably increased by the

improved cultivation. Before the Reformation it is probable that in Little Massingham the average production per acre of all kinds of grain did not exceed twelve bushels. From the Reformation to the Revolution the produce greatly increased: from the latter period to the first quarter of this century the production had more than doubled. In 1825 Little Massingham produced 4,000 quarters of corn, and in 1880 5,000 quarters.

During the last century the cultivation of wheat greatly increased. The general consumption of wheaten bread was unknown among the working classes until about 1750, barley bread being their chief food. Until 1745 scarcely any wheat was grown in West Norfolk. Early in 1800 not more than thirty or forty acres of wheat were grown in Little Massingham. In 1825 the cultivation had increased to between three and four hundred acres, and in 1880 there were about five hundred acres laid down in wheat. The land in the Parish is fine turnip and corn-growing land, and is farmed on the four-course system.

Quite recently the Little Massingham estate has been considerably improved. Good blue clay suitable for making both white and red bricks is found in the Parish, and near at hand there is a stratum of good sand, and a spring of water which has never been known to fail even in the dryest summers. A Brick-yard has been made whence one million bricks are turned out per annum. At no great distance from this a lime-kiln has been erected for burning the chalk which is found beneath the marl and the gravel. The close proximity of these works to the railway-station gives the neighbourhood great facilities for building purposes.

The water at Massingham being spring-water rising from the chalk is perfectly safe and wholesome, and fitted for house-

hold purposes, and it is no harder than chalky waters usually are. On an average the wind blows from the N.E. or E. on seventy-one days in the year; S.E. or S. on seventy-five; S.W. or W. on one hundred and forty days; and N.W. or N. on seventy-nine. The average yearly rainfall at Fakenham for the ten years ending 1870 was twenty-five inches.

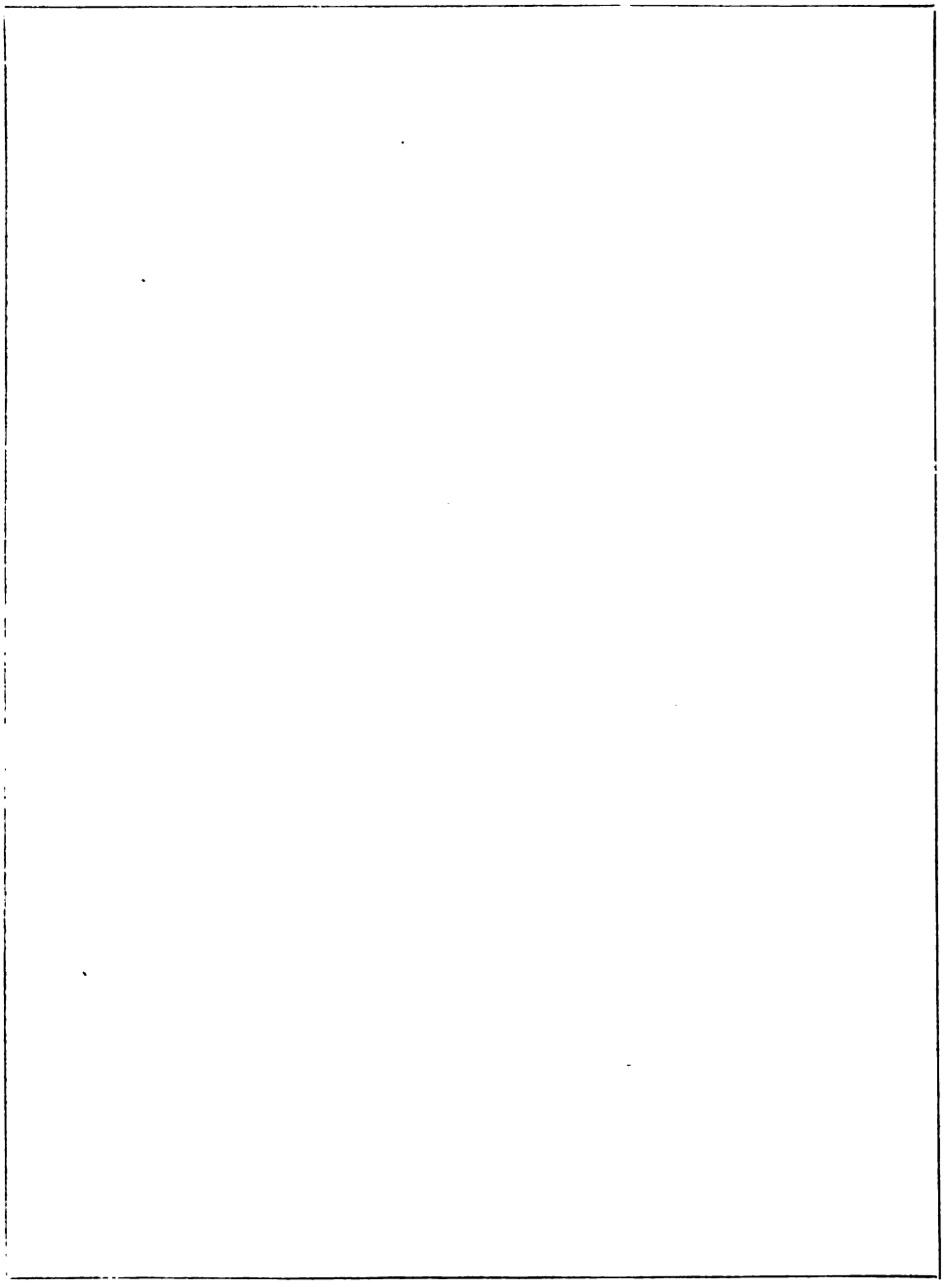
The convenient distance by rail from Lynn to Little Massingham, as well as the picturesque character of the surrounding scenery and the salubrity of the climate, bid fair to make the village, at no distant date, a favourite place of residence for business men and their families.

THE LYNN AND FAKENHAM RAILWAY.

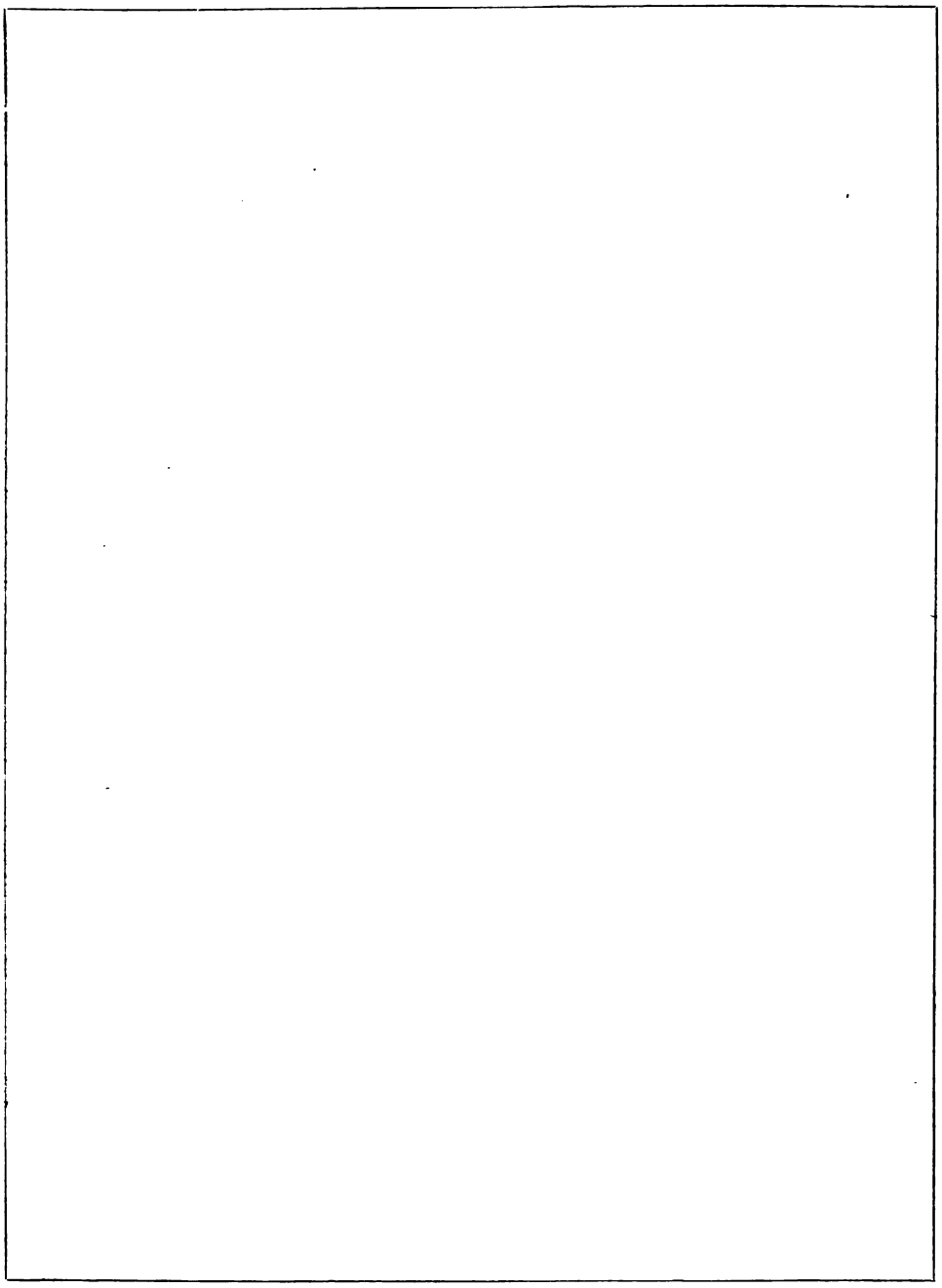
This railway, which shortens the distance between the two principal market-towns of West Norfolk by twenty miles, opens up a new and direct communication with Norwich, Yarmouth and Cromer, and which is acknowledged to be a work of great public importance, may trace its origin to Little Massingham.

Mr. Walker, the present lord of the manor, and Mr. Brereton, the rector, took together the first active steps for its promotion in 1874 and 1875, in consequence of which several meetings were held at the Rectory, and were attended by the Marquis Townshend, Sir William Ffolkes, Mr. Walker and other gentlemen who were interested in the movement. After a severe Parliamentary contest with the Great Eastern Railway Company, an Act for the construction of the line was obtained in 1876, and in 1878 Messrs. Wilkinson and Jarvis contracted to undertake the work. The line from Lynn to Massingham was opened on the 16th August, 1879, and the continuation to Fakenham

on the 16th August, 1880. In the year 1880, an Act was obtained authorising the extension of the line to Norwich and Holt; and in 1881, the important Act was passed sanctioning the complete connection with Yarmouth and Cromer, thus carrying out the fullest wishes and widest plans of the original promoters.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

LITTLE Massingham Church, with its square embattled tower, is a small but picturesque building, standing amid the fine old beech and elm trees of the Close. The principal entrance is by the south porch, which appears to rest on the foundation of some still earlier building. On each side of this entrance are the niches which once held the statues of the Virgin and St. Andrew, while above it are two lichen-covered stone escutcheons, bearing the arms of the de Thorpes. The porch is lighted by small perpendicular windows, and around the bottom of the roof runs the inscription, carved in oak:—

"The hour cometh and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth."

The Church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of a chancel and a nave. The nave is divided into aisles by octagonal pillars supporting pointed arches. On the south side of the Church, which faces the road, there is a clerestory, but none on the north. At the eastern end of the south aisle, a Chantry Chapel formerly existed, which was dedicated to St. Mary

the Virgin. Here John le Strange's tomb was originally erected, forming, possibly, the altar, while the window above it was emblazoned with the arms of his family. The only memorials of the Chapel now existing are the piscina and the grooves, cut into the pillars, for supporting the screen. At the east end of the north aisle a railed enclosure, probably a chapel, also existed.

A Gothic arch separates the chancel from the nave, and cut into the pilasters, whence it springs, are the grooves for the rood screen, which may have been as gorgeous as the one at Harpley. Through the pilaster on the south side of this arch a hagioscope or speculatory has been pierced. The east window was, at one time, a blaze of colour, being filled with the arms of the de Thorpes, the Hengraves, the Calthorps, &c. Beneath it, to the right, is an ambry, which was fitted with a mouldering wooden shelf on its discovery in 1857. Near this is another double-arched piscina, abutting on a window cut to form sedilia. The present handsome inner roof of the chancel was added in 1880, by the Rev. J. L. Brereton.

Previous to its restoration in 1857, the fabric was fitted with old-fashioned pews. These were removed at the time, and the present carved benches substituted in their place. At the same time the roof of the Church was repaired and re-leaded, the floor tiled, the pulpit erected, the font (which formerly stood behind the south door) removed to its present situation, and other improvements made, under the supervision of Mr. Jeckel, an architect of Norwich. He designed the very handsome pulpit, composed of Caen stone and marble. Not long after its completion, the restoration was inaugurated by a confirmation held in the Church by the Bishop of Norwich.

The arch supporting the tower is, evidently, the most ancient portion of the Church, and is of graceful proportions. The

architecture of the Church consists chiefly of a mixture of the Gothic and Perpendicular styles.

Under the western tower is a raised tomb of grey marble much defaced. This is the tomb which was erected by William Mordaunt to the memory of John le Strange, soon after the death of the latter in A.D. 1517. From its original position in St. Mary's Chapel, it was removed to near where the pulpit now stands, and sunk until the top was flush with the floor of the Church. When the pavement was taken up in 1857, for the purpose of tiling the floor, the tomb was removed to its present situation. On it may still be traced the outlines of the brasses which once adorned it. At the head of the covering slab was a crucifix, and beneath it were the busts of two figures. Around the rim of the slab ran an inscription, and, on the sides and ends of the tomb, are eight escutcheons, on which hung John le Strange's family arms and those of his wife's family. By his will, John le Strange bequeathed "his body to be buried (if he die within five miles of Massingham) before our blessed Lady in the Chapel on the south side of Little Massingham Church, and that a tomb be made for him, and set up there in the said Chapel, after the manner of Sir Henry Heydon's tomb in Norwich, with the arms of him, his wife and his ancestors, and a sculpture of him and his wife, with an orate, &c: and, if his corpse lies in any other place, he wills that a plain stone with his arms and his wife's be laid over him, but that a tomb be nevertheless erected here." "To the Church of Little Massingham he bequeathed a vestment and a tunicle, after the rate of Sir Robert Ratclyffe's cope, with an orate, &c., of white damask, price eight marks, to be made after the rate of the green vestment at Hunstanton, with the le Strange arms, but that his three escutcheons have his father's arms on one side, his

father-in-law's on the other, and his and his wife's at the tail."

Of the earlier members of the Mordaunt family who lie buried in the Church no monuments exist. The oldest memorial of this family is a pedimented slab of black marble, surrounded by a framework of white and yellow marble, and ornamented with the arms of the Mordaunts and the Tollemaches, hanging on the south side of the chancel arch. It commemorates the death of the Cavalier Mordaunt, and the inscription runs thus :—

"S^{r} Charls Mordaunt Kn^{t} and Baron^{te} dyed at Lond. July 10, 1648, aged 33. He was maried to Katharine the daught^{r} of S^{r} Lionell Tollemache of Helmingha in Suffolk Kn^{t} & Barone^{te} by whom he had S^{r} Charls his eldest sonne, Katherine, Tollemache dying before his father, John, Henry departed also, Elizabeth and Amy."

"Here remaines in civill trust
His belov'd bewayled dust,
Whose goodness is secur'd from feare
Of finding any sepulcher."

A marble slab beneath, which covers his remains, is inscribed :—

"Hic sublocantur reliquiæ Dni Caroli Mordaunt de Massingham, Militis & Baronetti, Filii & Hæredis Robti. Mordaunt Militis item & Baron^{tti} qui filius fuit itidem Hæresq. Dñi le Strange Mordaunt de quo Dño Carolo plura ad murū orientalem legantor. 1648."

Near the centre of the middle aisle is another slab, ornamented with the Mordaunt arms, upon which is the inscription :—

"Carolus Mordant Barronettus Caroli Mordant Barronettiet Catherinæ Talamach filius humanitatis et virtutis exemplar obiit an^{o} 1664 die 24 Aprilis anno ætatis 25. In æternum doloris et amoris monumentum Elizabetha Thori Consors integerrima marmor hoc posuit. C. A. P. S. D."

Besides these sole remaining monuments of interest, Blomefield records that the four following inscriptions were in existence at the time his history of Norfolk was written :—

"M. S. D'na Anna, W. Risley de Bedford gen. filia et hæres, D'ni Johs. Mordaunt de Walton in com. Warw. bar. uxor amans et amata, casta, pia, fidelis, affabilitate, pudicitiâ, et morum suavitate, peramabilis: variolis malignis occidens, mortis exuvias (certâ spe renascendi ad gloriam) hoc subter marmor deposuit. Obiit prid. non Junii anno salutis nostræ 1692, ætatis suæ . . . bis gravida et semel puerpera, heu nullam reliquit sobolem, quippe alteram in incunabilis, alteram in utero cum matre ademptum lugemus, Penelope quam solam peperit, matrem præcedens, eodem quiescit sepulchro. Et sic in maternis amplexius dormire videatur. Vita vix inchoata recessit, prid. non. Januar. Aº Christi incarnati 1690."

On a stone at the entrance of the chancel:—

"Ossa Edv. Salter, hujus ecclesiæ rectoris Maii 26, 1664."

On a marble grave-stone engraved with the arms of the Hacons:—

"Josephus Hacon, Topcroftæ in agro Norf. natus Maii 17, 1603, educatus Cantabr. Coll. Eman. Cœlis vixit inculpabilis, inculpatus, et orthodoxus hujus ecclesiæ rector, annos plus minus 20 . . . . "

On another stone with a brass plate:—

"Orate p. a'i'a D'ni Jacobi Bastard, quondam rectoris istius eccl'ie, qui totaliter tectum hujus cancelli fieri fecit, et obt. AO. Dni. 1530, cuj etc."

In the Churchyard, close beneath the east window, the Reverend C. D. Brereton, his wife and two of his daughters lie buried. A simply ornamented slab, slightly raised above the ground, covers the late rector's remains, and upon it is the inscription:—

"S. M. Charles David Brereton, born 4 July, 1790. Died 15 Oct, 1868.
During 47 years Rector of this Parish."

The belfry of the Church is gained by ascending a narrow winding staircase in the tower, and the entrance was, at one time, defended by a strong door. The windows of the room are loopholed: it is fitted with a chimney and fire-place, and it could have been made, like so many others in the country, a comfortable refuge and retreat, in case of need, during the Civil War. A small window, now blocked up, commanded a view of the altar and the interior of the Church, at which the acolyte stood to ring the sacring bell at the elevation of the Host. Overhead hang three bells, two only of which are dated. One of these was presented during the life of the second Robert Mordaunt, the other during that of Sir le Strange. The inscriptions on these two are in Latin characters:—

"JOHN DRAPER MADE ME, 1599.
JOHANES DRAPER ME FECIT, 1609."

On the third, in old English characters, is—

"HEC FLT. STN̄R CAMPANA LAUDE BONOR."

The Communion plate consists of a silver flagon, a chalice and a paten. The flagon weighs 24 ozs. 2 dwts., and bears the date, 1732. Possibly it was the gift of Sir Charles Mordaunt, the sixth baronet, whose son became Rector of the Parish.

The early Parish Registers are on parchment and date from the first year of Queen Elizabeth. All the entries, however, up to the year A.D. 1599, have been copied from some earlier record, in accordance with a Canon published in the reign of Elizabeth,

by which it was enacted that all registrations which had been effected upon paper records should be transcribed upon parchment. John Clarke, the copyist, has signed his name at the foot of each page of the Registers up to this date, and the entries are countersigned by the Reverend Thomas Hawley, who was presented to the living by the Crown in A.D. 1591.

A copy of the births, marriages and deaths which took place in the Parish from A.D. 1558 until A.D. 1660 will be found at the end of this book.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BRIEFS COLLECTED IN THE PARISH OF LITTLE MASSINGHAM SINCE FEBRUARY, 1664.

Collected Ffebruary the 5th (64) towards the repaire of ye Church of Tynmouth, in the County of Northumberland, 3 shillings.

Collected March ye 5th (64) towards the maintenance of the ministers of . . . . . in Alsatia, a province in Germany, the sūme of 2 shillings five pence.

Collected March ye 12th (64) towards ye relief of Henry Lyste (?) of Gilbrough, in the Northridinge of ye County of York, distressed by fine the sūme of 2 shillings and 3 pence.

1665. Collected April the 2nd towards the repairing of the Parish Church of Basing, in the County of Southampton, the sūme of 2 shillings and one penny.

Collected April the 16th towards the repairinge of the Parish Church of St. Maryes in ye ciyty of Chester the sum of 2s. 1d.

Collected September ye 3rd (1665) towards ye reliefe of John Wayht distressed by fine, ye sūme of 2 shillings.

Collected March 24, 1666, towards ye reliefe of Roger Rogers of Dover, ye summe of 2 shillings eight pence.

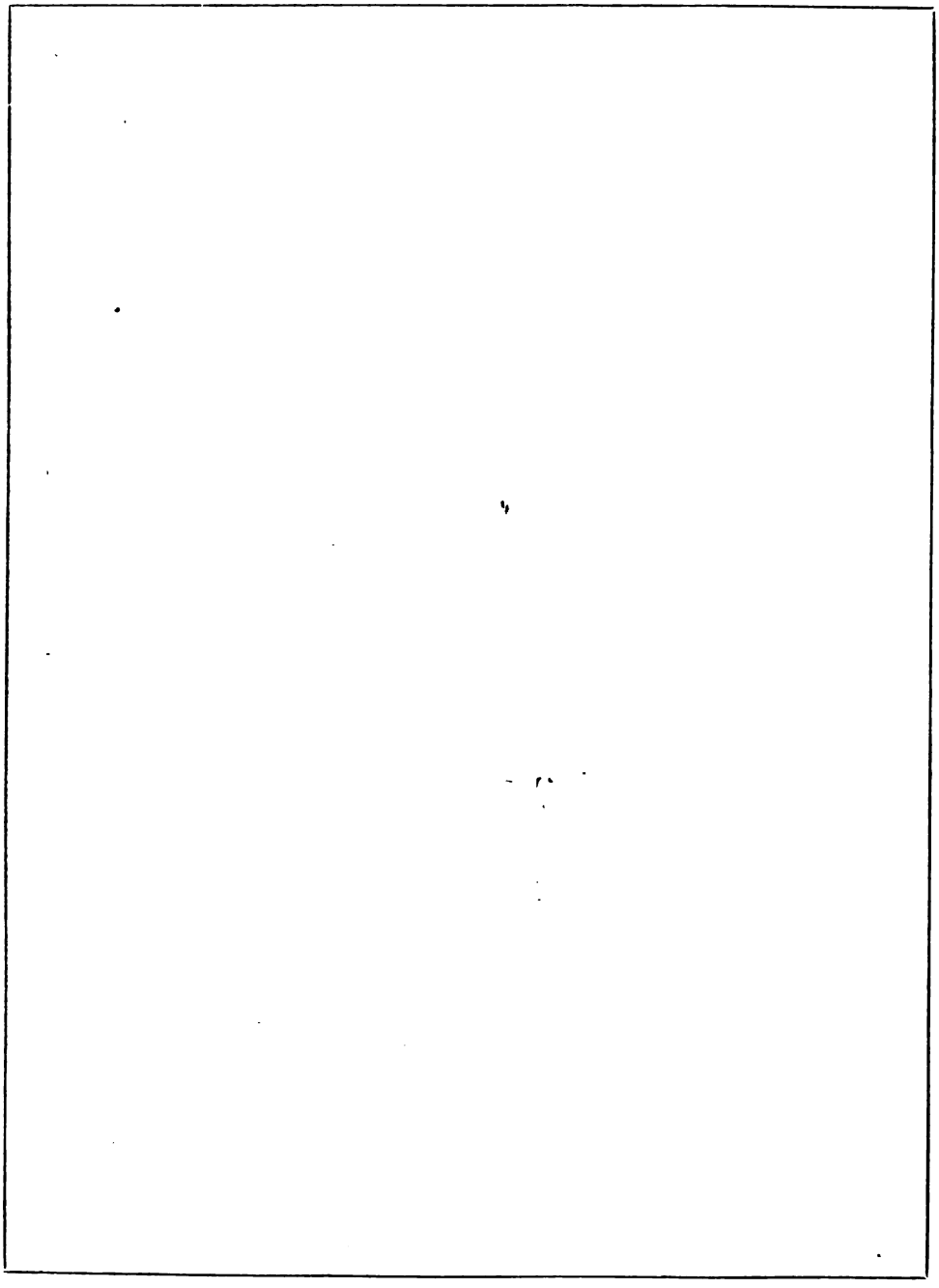
Collected in Ffebruary, 1666, towards ye reliefe of John Osburne, ye sūme of 2 shillings 3 pence.

There is an acre of land belonging to the Parish in what is called the Nine Acre Field, the rent of which is given to the parish clerk. It is unknown by whom the bequest was made.

THE RECTORS

OF

MASSINGHAM PARVA.



THE RECTORS

OF

MASSINGHAM PARVA.

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1286. —— de Ashwell. He and his brother, Sir John Ashwell, sold the manor of Ashwell near Thorpe to Sir John de Thorp.

1293. Reginald.

1325. Hugh de Ashwell.

1333. Walter Coleman, presented by the Lady Beatrix, widow of Sir Robert de Thorp.

1337. Alexander-atte-Mere, presented by the Lady Beatrix. He was transferred from Wreningham to Massingham, whence, later on, he was promoted to the living of Ashwell-Thorpe.

1338. John Lovesire, by the Lady Beatrix.

1344. Jeffrey Kemp, by the Lady Beatrix. The same year he was made Chaplain of the Free Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin at Ashwell, and in 1349 was promoted to

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the living of Ashwell-Thorpe. The Kemps are an ancient Saxon family which settled in the County of Norfolk, and lived at Gissing for centuries.

1374. John R———, died Rector.

1374. Jeffrey de Bumpstede, presented by Thomas de Bumpstede, citizen of Norwich.

1401. Edmund-atte-Hill, presented by John Herr of Cambridge.

1432. John Totyll, presented by Philip Tilney.

1433. Richard Tydde, ditto.

1434. William Pyvyle, ditto.

1458. Henry Abraham, presented by Sir John Bourchier, during the minority of Elizabeth Tilney.

—— John Scarlet.

1468. John Palmer, presented by Humphrey Bourchier and Elizabeth his wife.

1507—1558. Sir James Bastard, presented by the Earl of Surrey. During his incumbency, a new roof was added to the chancel of the Church. The Bastards were an old Norfolk family, lords of Dunham Magna. Sir James was buried at Little Massingham on the 20th August, 1558. This date is taken from the entry in the Parish Register, but Blomefield, on the authority of an inscribed tombstone which does not now exist, makes his death to have occurred in 1530.

1558. Thomas Burre, presented by Robert Mordaunt.

1561. John Nowell, S.T.B., Dean of Bocking, Essex. The Nowells were probably followers of the Lacys out of Normandy, and from that illustrious family the Nowells, Earls of Lincoln were descended. One of the Nowells, Dean of St. Paul's, London, attended

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the Duke of Norfolk at the time of his execution on Tower Hill in 1572.

1569. Henry Warren, S.T.B., presented by Queen Elizabeth.

1570—1591. Roger Brearwood, presented by Robert Mordaunt. He was the first married rector of Little Massingham, having solemnized matrimony in the Parish Church on the 2nd October, 1570, with Alice Ffishpoole, the daughter of a parishioner. On the accession of Edward VI. the marriage of the Clergy was permitted to take place without the risk of penalties, but, at the same time, it was discountenanced, generally. When Mary succeeded to the throne, she ordered the deprivation of all Priests who had contracted matrimony. In 1558 Mary died, and the year following Elizabeth, in Injunction XXIX., after declaring that the marriage of the Clergy was not forbidden by the Word of God, nor by the custom of the Primitive Church, draws attention to the fact that evils had arisen "through lack of discreet and sober behaviour in many Ministers of the Church, both in choosing of their wives and indiscreet living with them," and orders that no Priest or Deacon shall marry without the sanction of the Bishop and of two Justices of the Peace, together with the goodwill of the woman's nearest kinsfolk, "or, for lack of knowledge of such, of her master or mistress where she serveth." Roger Brearwood was buried at Little Massingham on the 15th August, 1591.

1591—1602. Thomas Hawley, presented by Queen Elizabeth, on account of the lunacy of James Mordaunt. The fact that Mr. Hawley bore the name of Thomas, which was passed on to his son, born at Little Massingham and

A.D.
1591—1602. buried at Great Massingham, seems to favour the presumption that there was a desire to perpetuate this name, and coupling with this the fact that he was a Crown nominee, the supposition gains force that he may have been the son of, or intimately related to, Thomas Hawley, Rouge Croix and Clarencieux.

This Thomas Hawley was originally a messenger to Henry VIII. In A.D. 1513 he accompanied the Earl of Surrey to Scotland in the capacity of Rouge Croix, which office he filled with singular judgment, as is mentioned both in the chronicles and the ballads commemorative of the Battle of Flodden. When King James received at the mouth of Rouge Croix the challenge from the Earl of Surrey to do battle in the plains, he made him prisoner, lest he should disclose to the English the condition of his army. After the battle he was liberated, and conveyed the news of the victory, together with a part of the skirt of James's coat as a proof of his death, to Queen Catherine. Catherine immediately despatched him with a letter and the token to Henry in France. As a mark of approval, Henry soon after created him a Herald, and, in that capacity, he assisted at the ceremony which took place on the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Having espoused the cause of the Lady Jane Grey he was treated as disaffected by Mary, although not deprived of his office. He regained some portion of her favour by the way in which he acted in Sir Thomas Wyatt's insurrection, prevailing on that rash man to submit to the Queen's authority rather than sacrifice more valuable lives. He was a

A.D.

1591—1602. great favourite with Henry VIII., Edward VI. and, latterly, with Mary. He lived at the Barbican, London, where he died on the 22nd August, A.D. 1557. Two days afterwards, he was buried in the Church of St. Giles without Cripplegate, having a very splendid funeral, at which "were carried his coat armour, pennons, escutcheons of arms, two white branches, twelve staff-torches, four great tapers and a crown. After the dirge, the heralds who attended went to Mr. Green's, a man of note, being wax chandler to Cardinal Pole, who lived near, where they had spice bread and cheese and wine in great plenty. On the morrow Mass was celebrated and a sermon preached, after which a great dinner was given to which all the heralds and all the chief parishioners were invited." Two children were born to the Reverend Thomas Hawley at Little Massingham. Mr. Hawley died and was buried there on 30th October, 1602. Over his son's remains in Great Massingham Church was placed an inscribed stone:—

"In memory of Thomas Hawley, gent., buried November 4th, 1659."

1603—1616. Andrew Pilkington, presented by le Strange Mordaunt. His brother James was living at Little Massingham in 1609 when a child was born to him, and the next year, James was presented by Sir Hamon le Strange to the living of Holm-next-the-Sea. The Pilkingtons are an ancient Saxon family of the County of Lancaster. "The good old Bishop of Durham," Dr. James Pilkington, was a member of this House. Andrew Pilkington was buried at Little Massingham on the 29th August, 1616.

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1616—1620. Edward Thorowgood, presented by Sir le Strange Mordaunt. About this time, a Sir Anthony Thorowgood was living in or near Lynn, and a Robert Thorowgood was Customer and Collector of that port. The Thorowgoods would appear to have been stern Puritans. Robert Thorowgood, in 1656, was elected Mayor of Lynn, and, at the close of the year 1662, a Commission was appointed by Charles II. to regulate the Corporation of Lynn, by whose authority he was expelled from his office of alderman, and one Owen Barnes elected in his stead. A Sir John Thorowgood, who resided at Grimston in the middle of the 17th century, presented to St. Margaret's Church in Lynn the first set of chimes for the bells. In 1726 he also made a grant of a house and five acres of land for the better maintenance of the school-master of Grimston.

The Reverend Edward Thorowgood died at Massingham Parva, and was buried there on the 7th December, 1620.

1621—1643. Thomas Thorowgood, presented by William Thorowgood hac vice. Mr. Thorowgood entered at St. John's College, Oxford, where he took his bachelor's degree in 1609 and his master's in 1612. He was afterwards made a B.D., and an S.T.B. in 1624. He was a man of considerable learning and ability, and was in 1643 chosen to be a Member of the Assembly of Divines. On the 26th December, 1644, he preached a sermon before the House of Commons on "Moderation Justified," from Phil. iv. 5, which was afterwards published. He also published in 1650 a pamphlet on "the Jews in America: or, probabilities that Americans are of that race," which drew a learned

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1621—1643. reply from John Durie, a clever Scotchman residing at Oxford, called "Epistolical Discourses to Mr. Thomas Thorowgood concerning his conjecture that the Americans are descended from the Israelites." In 1644, Mr. Thorowgood paid a visit to Sir Roger le Strange, then lying in Lynn under sentence of death for treason plotted against the Commonwealth, in order to try and induce him to subscribe the Covenant. Mr. Thorowgood seems to have been an intimate friend of Sir Henry Spelman, according to the following extract from Magna Britannia Antiqua et Nova, 1724:—"The Impropriation of Middleton happened to be part of Sir Henry Spelman's estate when he wrote a tract to dissuade from a profanation of churches and to persuade a restitution of tithes and impropriations. Wherefore that he might not preach but practise, he took a course for disposing of it for the augmentation of the vicarage and make thereby a further addition to Congham (his birthplace), which was yet but a small living. While he lived he never put up any part of the rent, but disposed of it to augment the vicar's portion, as Mr. Thorowgood, a neighbouring divine, advised, to whom he gave power, after his death, to augment it further, which he has done and hath a surplusage to purchase in the Impropriation of Congham." Mr. Thorowgood was Rector of Grimston in 1650.

1643—1662. Joseph Hacon, presented by Sir Charles Mordaunt. Mr. Hacon was a native of Topcroft, Norfolk, where he was born on the 17th May, 1603. He was

A.D.

1643—1662. educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and, after entering Holy Orders, was made Rector of Massingham in his 40th year. Having buried the Cavalier Sir Charles Mordaunt, he was a few years after sworn in before Edmund Cremer, J.P., as Registrar of the Parish. He was buried at Massingham Parva on the 18th September, 1662.

1662—1664. Edward Salter. The Salters were a family of some consequence settled at North Wootton, in the middle of the sixteenth century. Robert Salter, gent., left £20 at his death to North Wootton Church, and £30 to be distributed amongst the poor. William Salter was Vicar of North Wootton in 1560. Both Edward Salter and his wife lie buried at Massingham Parva.

1664—1673. Robert Lockwood. He is the first and only Incumbent who styles himself "Minister of Little Massingham," his predecessors and successors signing the Registers as Rectors. He was buried at Little Massingham on the 1st September, 1673.

1674—1715. Charles Preston. He resided at Little Massingham until the year 1683, during which time four children were born to him. After that date, for thirty-two years, the Parish was in the charge of Curates. The first of these, Benjamin Squire, lived there from 1683 until the beginning of 1689. A Benjamin Squire was Rector of Congham in 1723. From 1689 until 1715 (the latter date being the year of his death) Samuel Healy was Curate.

1715—1724. Thomas Grigson, presented by Sir John Mordaunt.

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1725—1752. Charles Squire. He held in plurality the livings of Little Massingham and Congham. On the 21st May, 1730, he was nominated to the Head Mastership of the King's Lynn Grammar-School, and held the post for nine years. He lies buried in Congham Church under a marble tombstone, upon which was inscribed:—

> "H. S.E. Carolus Squire, A.M., Scholæ Lennensis, p. annos novem præceptor celebris, ecclesiæ hujus et de Massingham Pa. rector dignissimus, sacerdos doctus, pius probus, vir varia et perpolita eruditione ornatus, historicis et humanioribus in literis maxime versatus, amicus plane simplex, comes jucundissimus, desideratissimus. Obt. 20 Aug., 1752, ætat. 56. Marito optimo, uxor mœrens posuit."

1752—1760. Ayrmine Styleman, presented by Sir Charles Mordaunt. The Stylemans were lords of the manor of Snettisham, where they had settled in the seventeenth century. Ayrmine le Strange, the sister of Sir Henry le Strange of Hunstanton, the last of the long line of baronets of that illustrious House, married Nicholas Styleman, lord of Snettisham. Her third son was named Ayrmine after the family of her grandmother, Anne Ayrmine, the daughter of Sir William Ayrmine, who was married to Sir Thomas Wodehouse of Kimberley, in Little Massingham Church, in 1666. Ayrmine Styleman married the daughter of James Blakeway, of the Royal Navy, by whom he had seven children. Ayrmine was the cousin of Sir Charles Mordaunt's second wife, the daughter of Sir John Wodehouse, and, having entered Holy Orders, the living of Little Massingham was

A.D.

1752—1760. offered to him by Sir Charles Mordaunt on the death of Mr. Squire. In 1754 his uncle, Sir Henry le Strange, presented Mr. Styleman to the living of Ringstead St. Peter, which he held in plurality. Mr. Styleman does not appear to have taken any active part in the parochial matters of Massingham, the charge of the Parish being intrusted to Edmund Nelson, Rector of Congham, for a number of years from A.D. 1752. In 1760 the vacant Rectorship of Snettisham was offered to Mr. Styleman by his brother, and, on its acceptance, he resigned the living of Little Massingham in favour of the Reverend Charles Mordaunt.

1761— Charles Mordaunt, presented by his father, Sir Charles Mordaunt. The same year Charles Mordaunt was presented by Mary Bacon, a connection of the family by marriage, to the Rectory of Ryburgh Magna and the Vicarage of Ryburgh Parva; and the next year, by the same Patron, to the living of Egmere. Edmund Nelson being still in charge of Little Massingham, Mr. Mordaunt did not appear there until 1772. Two years afterwards, he married Charlotte, the daughter of Sir Philip Musgrave, Bart., of Kempton Park, and brought his young wife to the Rectory House, which had recently been restored. Here they lived for a few years, and on the 26th March, 1776, a son and heir was born to them, who eventually succeeded his father in the Rectorship. The child was baptized at Massingham on the 17th of April in the same year, and was named Charles, after his father and his ancestors. In the north transept window of Ryburgh Church there is a coat of

A.D.

arms dated 1769, supposed to be that of the Reverend Charles Mordaunt.

18...—1820. Charles Mordaunt, presented by Sir Charles Mordaunt. Soon after his presentation to the living, Charles Mordaunt quitted Massingham for good, and the care of the Parish was again intrusted to a succession of Curates:—

1804. T. H. D. Hoste, Curate.

1807—1810. William Wodehouse, Curate.

1812—1820. Thomas Bland, Curate.

The Reverend Charles Mordaunt, who came in for an estate at Badgworth, Somerset, married Frances, the daughter of James Sparrow, of Flax Bourton. A son, John, was born to them in 1815. The Reverend Charles Mordaunt died on the 22nd January, 1820.

1820—1867. Charles David Brereton, presented by Joseph Wilson, Esquire. Mr. Brereton was the second son of John Brereton, Esquire, of Brinton, in the county of Norfolk, where this branch of the ancient Cheshire family of the Breretons had resided during several generations. He graduated at Queen's College, Cambridge, in 1813. Mr. Brereton was the author of several pamphlets on the Poor Law, &c., which contributed not a little to the condemnation and abrogation of the mischievous Allowance System. He was appointed Rural Dean by Bishop Stanley, and was possessed of considerable influence with all classes of society, both in the County and the Diocese. For some years he held, conjointly with Massingham Parva, the living of Framlingham Earl and Bixley,

A.D.

near Norwich. He resigned the latter living in 1860, and, as Patron, presented it to his eldest son, the Reverend Charles David Brereton. In 1867 he also resigned the living of Little Massingham, but continued to live there, with his third son and successor in the Rectorship, until his death on the 15th October, 1868. His widow, the daughter of Joseph Wilson, Esquire, also died at Little Massingham Rectory on the 17th of March, 1880, and, like her husband, was singularly respected and beloved.

1867. Joseph Lloyd Brereton, presented by Fuller Maitland Wilson, Esquire. Mr. Brereton, the third son of the Revd. C. D. Brereton, was born at Little Massingham Rectory on the 19th October, 1822. He was sent to Rugby in 1837, and remained in Dr. Arnold's sixth form until the end of 1841. A year later, he entered University College, Oxford, having obtained an open scholarship, and, in the following year, he gained the Newdigate Prize for an English poem on the Battle of the Nile. Having taken his bachelor's degree in 1847, he was ordained Deacon and Priest at Norwich by Bishop Stanley, and served successively the Curacies of St. Edmund's, Norwich, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, and St. James', Paddington.

In 1852 he was presented by the Baroness Basset, to the living of West Buckland in the county of Devon, which he held until 1867, when he succeeded his father, who, in that year, resigned the living of Little Massingham. While in Devonshire, Mr.

Brereton exerted himself to improve the education of the middle-classes, and, by the encouragement and the co-operation of Earl Fortescue, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of the County, he succeeded in establishing the first County School. The value of this undertaking was recognised by Bishop Phillpotts, who marked his approval by offering to Mr. Brereton in 1858 a Prebendal Stall in Exeter Cathedral. At the same time he expressed his belief that the best solution of a very difficult problem had been found. Earl Fortescue also manifested his appreciation by placing in the School a bust of Mr. Brereton with the following inscription:—

> "In grateful acknowledgment of the genius that planned, and of the liberality, energy and judgment that effected, the establishment of the Devon County School, this bust was presented to the School by Hugh, Earl Fortescue, K.G., 1861."

On coming into Norfolk, Mr. Brereton was encouraged by some of the principal residents in the County to attempt the foundation of a similar Public School for the middle-classes. Here, also, the Lord-Lieutenant, the Earl of Leicester, K.G., supported the project, and on the 14th of April, 1873, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, accompanied by H. R. H. the Princess of Wales, laid the foundation stone of the buildings near Elmham, in the centre of the County.

In close connection with these schools, and in continuation of the same public object, Mr. Brereton has succeeded in procuring the establishment at Cambridge of a new College, where students can

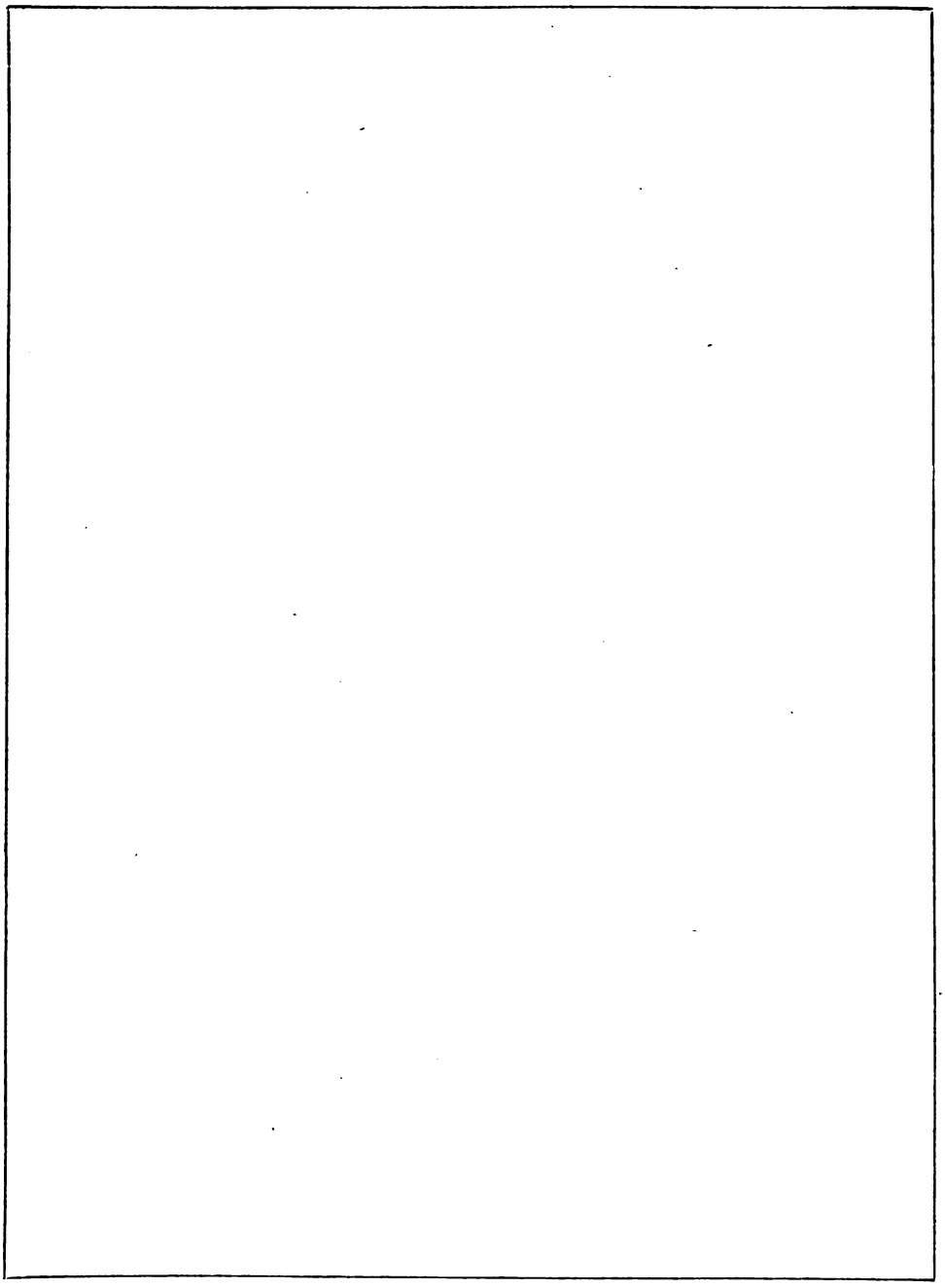
enter the University at an earlier age than has been usual, and can keep terms under collegiate discipline, with board and tuition and University fees included, at the moderate annual charge of eighty guineas. To this College His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, has given great encouragement and support, permitting it to bear the name of Cavendish College.

Mr. Brereton is further engaged in plans for extending to girls and women similar advantages of graduated education. In addition to this educational work Mr. Brereton has, like his father, taken an active part in questions of agricultural and rural interest. He also, at an earlier date, personally took special pains to secure for Norfolk the advantages of a new and complete railway system.

CASTLE ACRE PRIORY MANOR

(NOW CALLED MONK'S MANOR)

IN MASSINGHAM MAGNA.



CASTLE ACRE PRIORY MANOR.

THE foundation of this manor was laid by Robert, lord of Massingham Magna, who, shortly after the erection of the Priory at Castle Acre, bestowed upon it some of his property in Great Massingham. The manor was further increased by grants made by neighbouring landowners, and the following lands were bequeathed to it in Little Massingham: —One acre by Ralph, two acres by Ordinarius, ten acres by Sir Robert de Thorp, and five by Sir Hugh de Thorp. At the dissolution of the Castle Acre Priory, in A.D. 1537, a grant of all the lands belonging to it was made by Henry VIII. to Thomas Howard, the third Duke of Norfolk, the eldest son of Elizabeth Tilney, to whose sad fate reference has been made previously. From the Duke of Norfolk these lands passed into the possession of the Walpoles. The Walpoles are a very ancient and distinguished Norfolk family, and have given a Chancellor to the University of Cambridge, a Bishop to the Church, a Prime Minister to the State, and a genius to the Republic of Letters. The present head of the family is the Earl of Orford. The first Walpole who owned land in

Little Massingham seems to have been John Walpole, a celebrated and wealthy barrister, who lived in the reigns of Edward VI. and Mary. His favourite residence was at Harpley, the adjoining parish to Massingham on the north. In 1553, John Walpole was elected M.P. for Lynn, and, two years afterwards, he was made a Serjeant-at-Law. His success as a barrister rapidly increased his wealth, and, as fast as he made money, he invested it in land in different parts of the country. Amongst other estates he purchased Felthams and Monk's Manors in Great Massingham, to the latter of which belonged the land in Little Massingham once owned by the Prior of Castle Acre. John Walpole died three weeks before Queen Mary, and, on the 3rd of November, he was interred with great pomp in the Church of St. Dunstan's, London. An eye-witness describing the solemn pageant says:—"There were in attendance all the Judges and the Serjeants of the Coif, and men of the law a two hundred, with two white branches, twelve staff torches and four great tapers, and priests and clerks, and the morrow the Mass of Requiem."

By his wife, Jane Knyvett—who was the grand-daughter of John Bourchier, Lord Berners, at one time heir of Massingham Parva—John Walpole left behind him an only son, William, aged fourteen years. The guardianship of this child was left to the Bishop of Ely, who was authorized to charge the expenses connected with the boy's education upon the manor of Felthams, in Great Massingham. His widow was to enjoy a life-interest in his estates, after which they were to go to his son. Jane Walpole, subsequently, married Mr. Thomas Scarlett, who, with Mr. Robert Coke (father of the celebrated Sir Edward Coke), was co-executor of her husband's will.

William Walpole remained under the care of the Bishop of Ely until the latter was thrown into the Tower for refusing to take the oath of supremacy to Queen Elizabeth. He then removed to London, and took up his residence with Mr. Blackwell, the Town Clerk of the City, whose daughter he afterwards married. After this event, William Walpole and his wife settled in Sussex, which was at that time the centre of the iron-smelting industry of the kingdom. Here he erected a large foundry, and was rapidly making the enterprise a commercial success, when the Government interfered, in consequence of his making cannon for exportation. He thereupon threw up his business and retired to Norfolk, where he purchased an estate in North Tuddenham, and not long after died. His marriage with Mary Blackwell had been an unhappy one, and, in consequence of there being no issue by it, after making due provision for his wife, he settled his extensive estates on Edward Walpole, his cousin. By his will he left, amongst other legacies, "all his lands and tenements in Great Massingham and Little Massingham unto Mary my well-beloved wife for life, the remainder thereof unto my cousin, Edward Walpole. To Martin Diat, my servant, messuage, lands and tenements in Little Massingham. To William Michell, my godson, and Mary, his wife, eight acres in Little Massingham."

Edward Walpole, the eldest son of John Walpole of Houghton, and Catherine Calibut, his wife, was about twenty-five years of age at his cousin's death. Brought up a Protestant, he was, much to the grief of his parents, induced by his cousin, Henry Walpole of Docking, to enter the Roman Catholic Church. So serious was the breach of his home peace in consequence, that his position became unbearable, and, at last, his parents, with undeserved harshness,

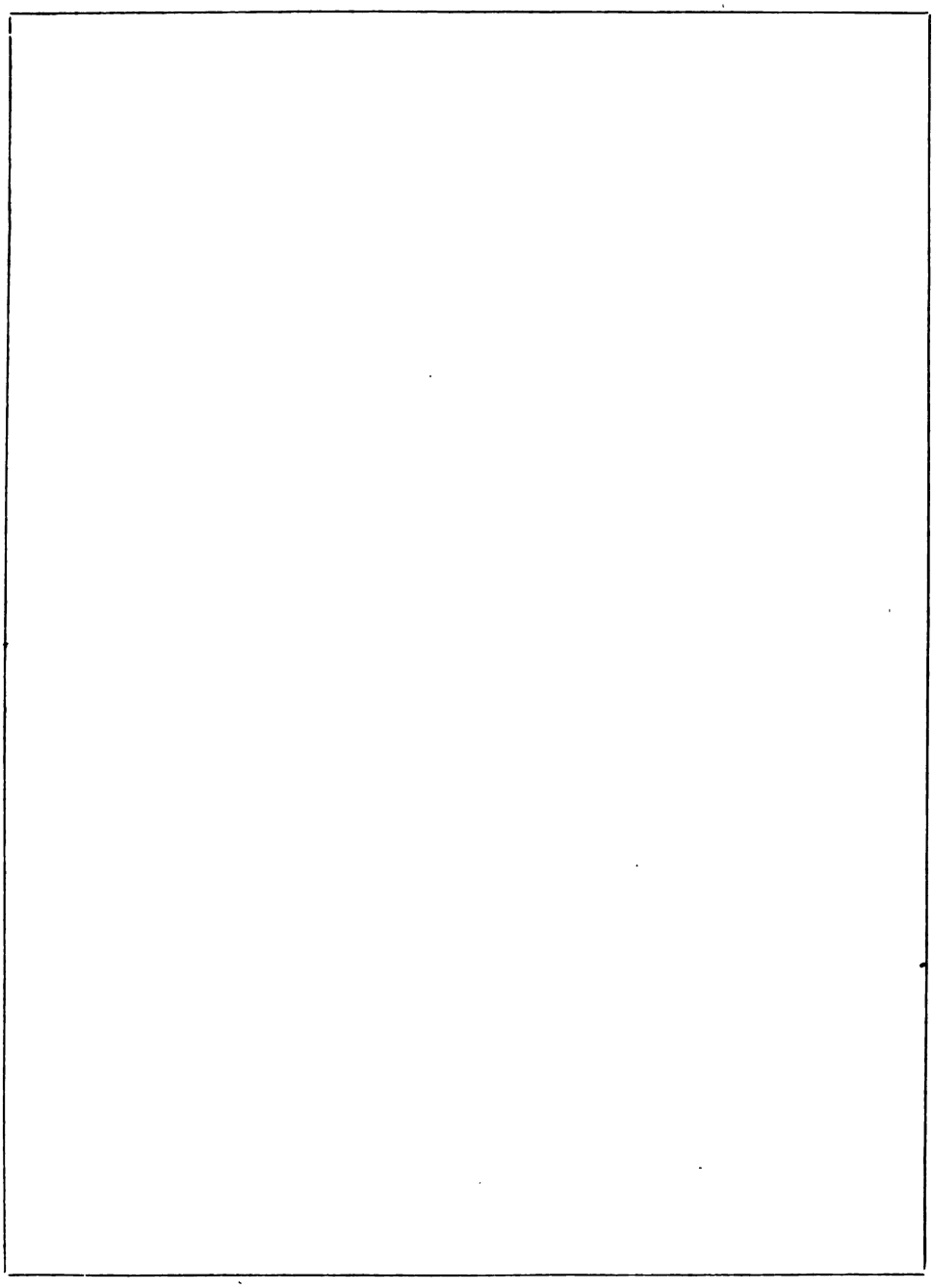
turned him out of doors. Having attempted to leave England without a licence, Edward Walpole was arrested while in the act of embarking, and taken before the Lords of the Council. In consequence of his being the heir to his wife's estates the Earl of Leicester interested himself in the young man's favour, and, through his intercession, he was released. He then returned to Norfolk, and, having been offered a home by his cousin, William, at Tuddenham, he gladly accepted it—thus becoming the means of effecting a reconciliation between the long-parted husband and wife of that household. Shortly after William Walpole's death, the Earl of Leicester also died, and Amy Robsart's estates, which had been settled on Robert Dudley for life, descended to Edward Walpole as her heir; but Edward Walpole's father being also dead, and having, by his will, disinherited his eldest son and made his second son, Callabut, his heir, Edward, by reason of a noble scruple of conscience, relinquished his right to her lands in favour of his brother.

On the landing of John Gerard, a Jesuit, on the coast of Norfolk, Edward Walpole enthusiastically threw himself into the furtherance of the object of his mission, and rendered him great assistance in his interviews with the Roman Catholics of Grimston, Anmer and Harpley. Hearing, however, that his cousin, Henry, to whom he owed his conversion, was confined in a miserable prison at Flushing, which had been occupied by the English, he despatched a messenger with his ransom and a letter, informing him that he would join him abroad immediately he had been able to put his affairs in order. Having parted with some of his estates and purchased a licence to travel, Edward Walpole embarked from England and arrived in Brussels in the fall of the year 1590. Having received from his cousin letters of introduction to several

dignitaries of the Papal Court at Rome, he, subsequently, set out for that city, and, in 1592, was induced to take Orders, vowing, at the same time, to serve the Papal Cause in England whenever his services should be required.

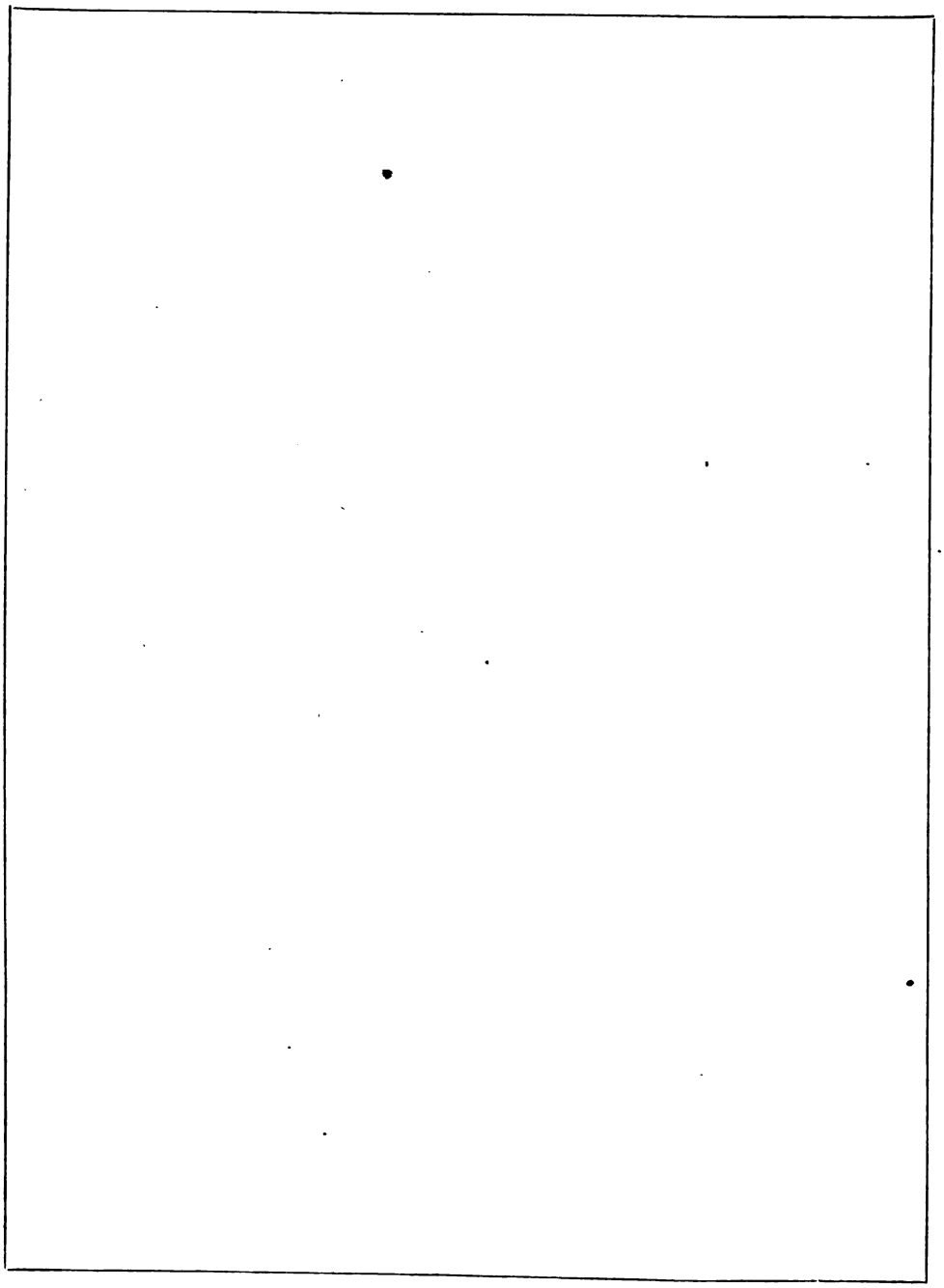
The period to which his licence to travel extended having almost expired, Edward hastened to England, in order to save his estates from confiscation. To his surprise, he found on landing that the fact of his Ordination at Rome had transpired, and that a warrant for his apprehension had been issued. He thereupon fled to Belgium, where he soon after entered the Society of Jesus. Directly the news of this step reached England, he was indicted for a supposed conspiracy done at Rome four years previously: a sentence of outlawry was issued against him, and his estates were declared to be forfeited to the Crown. Notwithstanding that it was death for a Jesuit father to set foot on English soil, Edward Walpole landed in Norfolk three years afterwards, and, though chased by pursuivants from hiding-place to hiding-place, he managed to elude the grasp of the law during the remainder of Elizabeth's reign. On the accession of James I., his brother, Callabut, obtained his pardon. For thirty-nine years, Edward Walpole laboured in England as a devoted servant of his Order and his Church, and died in London on the 3rd November, 1637, at the age of seventy-eight.

Callabut Walpole is said to have bought back into the family all Edward's confiscated estates. Eventually, Monk's Manor in Great Massingham came into the possession of the noble family of Coke, Earls of Leicester, and that portion of it lying in Little Massingham was parted with to Mr. Goulton as before stated.



ST. MARY'S PRIORY,

MASSINGHAM MAGNA.



ST. MARY'S PRIORY,

MASSINGHAM MAGNA.

BEFORE the year 1260, Nicholas le Syre of Massingham Magna had founded in that village a Priory for Augustinian monks, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and St. Nicholas. The founder gave to this Priory, among other gifts, "one messuage, a mill, and two carucates of land in Massingham Magna and Parva." In A.D. 1346, the Prior held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Massingham Magna and Parva of the then Earl Marshall, and in A.D. 1399, lands lying in both parishes of the fee of Roger Mortimer. This Mortimer was cousin to Richard II., and heir presumptive to the Crown. Having been appointed Lieutenant of Ireland, he, in company with the Duke of Gloster and the Earls of Rutland and Northampton, and attended by one hundred men-at-arms, two hundred archers on horseback, and four hundred archers on foot, proceeded to Ireland to suppress an insurrection. He was subsequently made Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and, in A.D.

1399, having adventured himself in front of his soldiers in a skirmish with the Irish kernes, he was slain. Directly the news reached England, Richard II. prepared an expedition in order to avenge his kinsman's death, with which he set sail for Ireland, and thereby lost his crown. Roger Mortimer was the great grandfather of two Kings of England. His grandson was the famous Duke of York, whose ambition deluged England with blood, and of whom Shakspeare makes Henry VI. indignantly to inquire, when finding him one day seated on the Throne of England:—

> "What title hast thou, traitor, to the Crown?
> Thy father was, as thou art, Duke of York;
> Thy grandfather, Roger Mortimer, Earl of March.
> I am the son of Henry the Fifth!"

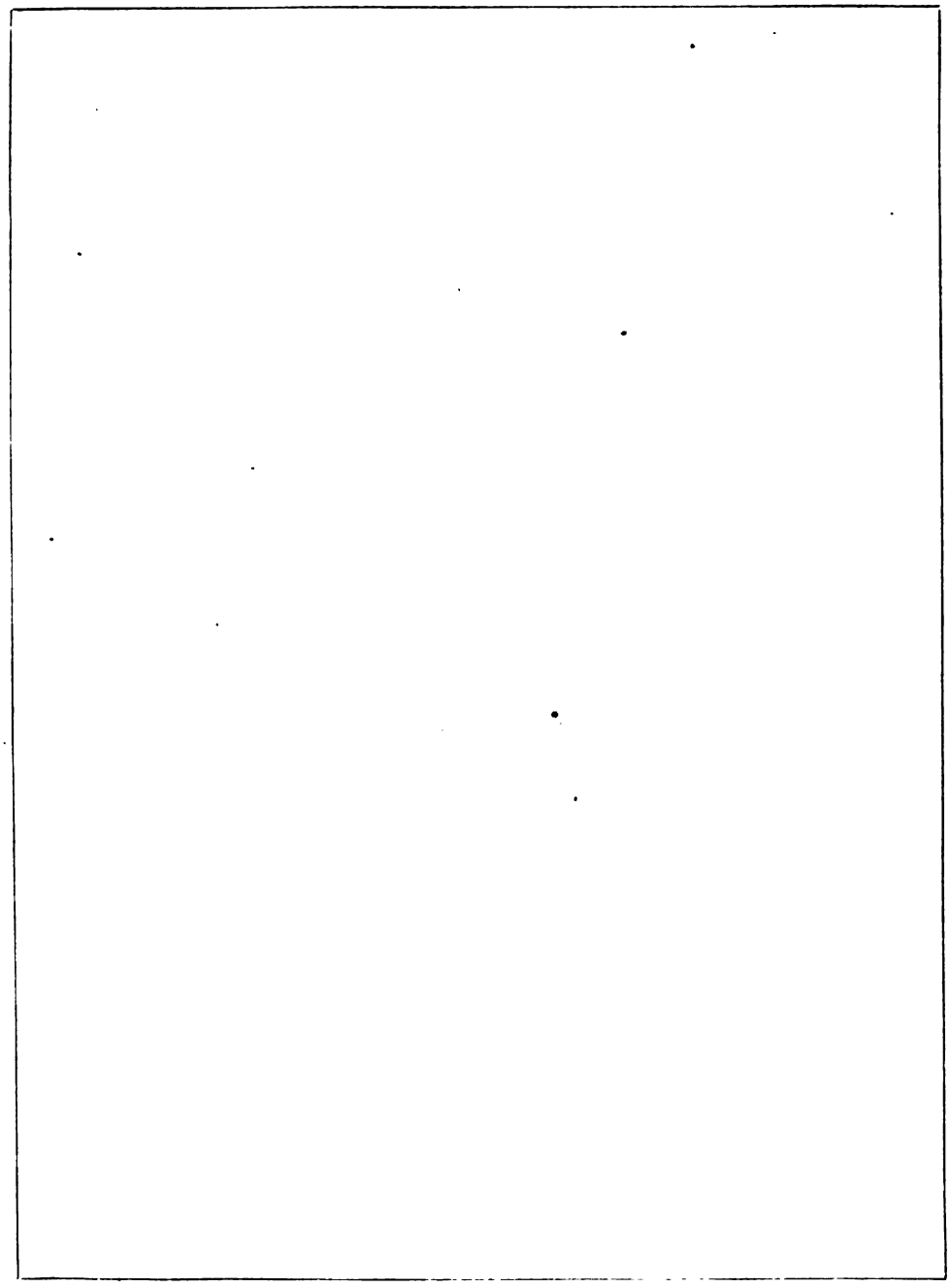
York's ambition was laid low on the Field of Wakefield, and his head raised high on the Micklegate at York to enforce Queen Margaret's biting jest :—

> "That York might overlook the town of York."

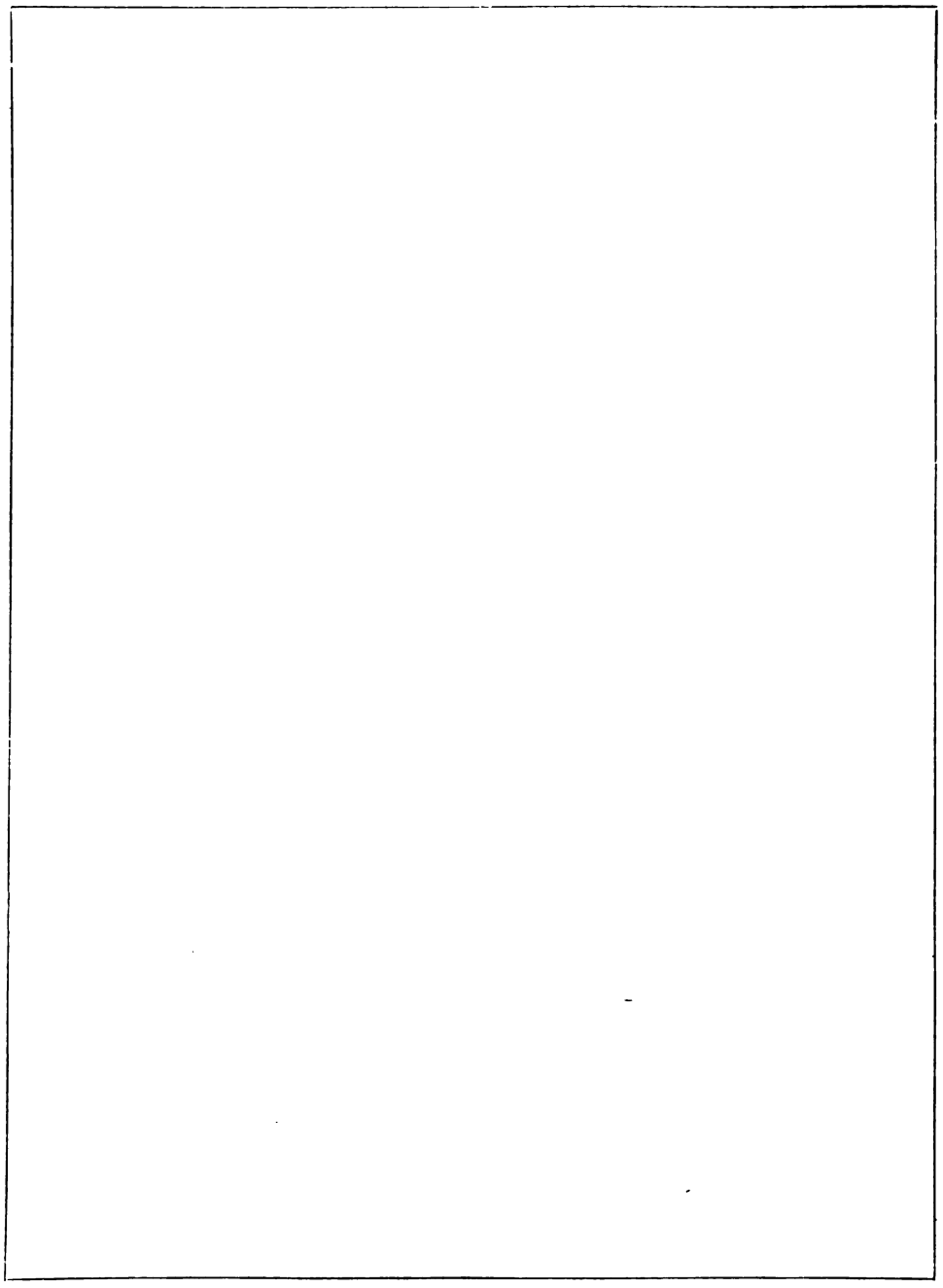
In the year 1475, St. Mary's Priory being in a decayed state and the lands wasted, it was united to the West Acre Priory, and became a Cell for two canons and two poor men belonging to that house. In A.D. 1553 West Acre Priory was granted to Sir Thomas Gresham, and the lands in Little Massingham, which had been bestowed in aid of the endowment of St. Mary's Priory, fell into his hands.

Sir Thomas Gresham, who came of an ancient Norfolk family, was the son of a rich London merchant. After studying at Gonville Hall, Cambridge, he became a member of the Mercers' Company, London, and, in 1552, was sent, by the King's orders,

to Antwerp as his factor. His predecessor in the office having greatly mismanaged the royal affairs, Gresham, in two years, not only paid off a heavy loan, but, also, entirely restored the King's credit. On the accession of Mary he was dismissed from office, being a Protestant, but was afterwards reinstated when the character of his services to the Crown had been fully enquired into. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth and appointed her Ambassador at Brussels, but he was compelled to leave his post when the troubles of 1568 broke out. One of the greatest changes made by Sir Thomas in the commercial life of England was the obtaining of loans from the merchants of London for the purposes of the State, instead of from foreigners as hitherto. As a man, he was renowned for his generosity and magnificent hospitality. The sad death of his son led him to devote a large portion of his wealth to the erection of the Royal Exchange, London. He died suddenly, in 1579, leaving the greater part of his extensive estates to his widow. The Little Massingham land attached to St. Mary's Priory eventually came into the hands of the Walpoles, whence it was transmitted to the Marquis of Cholmondeley, by whom six acres (of which apparently it was composed) were sold to Mr. Goulton.



CREYKE ABBEY.



CREYKE ABBEY.

ABOUT the year 1206, Sir Robert de Narford and Alice, his wife, founded the Abbey of North Creyke, and vested the patronage in the Crown. One or more of the lords of Massingham Parva assisted in its endowment, by the bequest of land in Massingham Parva. In all probability the chief benefactor was Sir John de Thorpe, who, about A.D. 1290, inherited through his grandmother the North Creyke estates. In A.D. 1506, the last Abbot having died, and, there being no Chapter in existence to elect another, the Abbey was dissolved, and a grant of it and of its lands was made by Henry VII. to his mother, Margaret, Countess of Richmond. After the death of her third husband, being then sixty-three years of age, Margaret Beaufort took a vow of chastity and of devotion to charitable works. "Counting herself as of the Lancaster line, heir of all King Henry VI's godly intentions," in furtherance of one of them, she caused inquiries to be instituted as to the condition in which "God's House" in Cambridge was. Finding that there were only three Fellows and the Master in existence, she richly endowed the College,

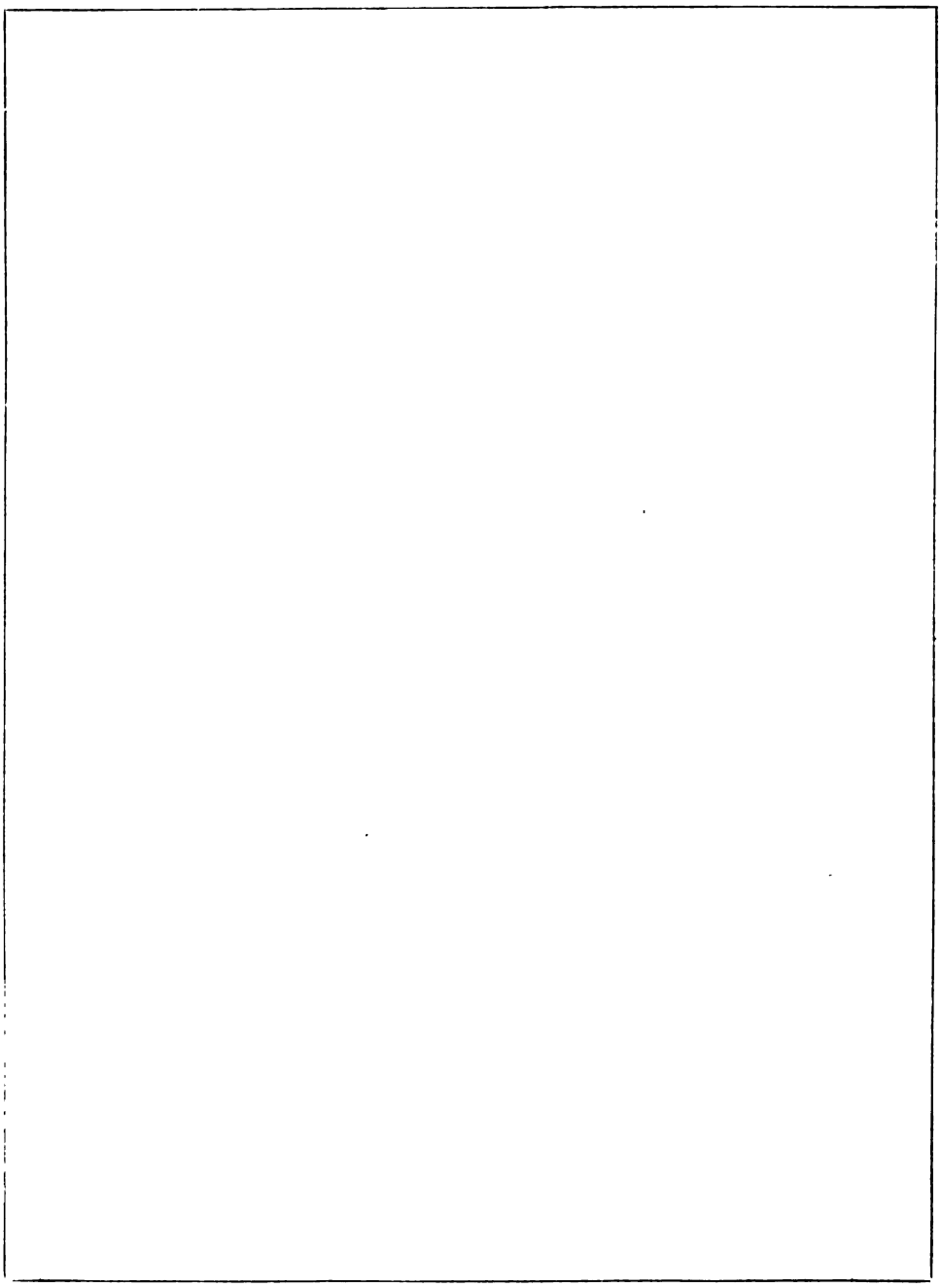
altering its name at the same time to "Christ's." Amongst her bequests, were the lands belonging to the Abbey of Creyke. "By a deed dated 20 November, 1511, Thomas Thompson, D.D., Master of Christ's College, and the Fellows, etc., demised to John l'Estrange of Massingham Parva, Esqre., all their lands, tenements, rents, services, fold courses in Massingham Parva and Harpley, lately belonging to Creke Abbey, for sixty years, paying £3 per annum and all taxes, tithes, &c."

From John le Strange these lands, with the rest of his property, passed into the possession of the family of Mordaunt, by the marriage of Barbara le Strange with Robert Mordaunt, and from them that portion situated in Massingham Parva has descended to the present owners.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

EXTRACTED FROM THE

PARISH REGISTERS.



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

EXTRACTED FROM THE

PARISH REGISTERS.

ANNO REGINÆ ELIZABETHÆ PRIMO.

Mariages.

ANNO DO.

1559. Edward Alexander & Joan Burninge were maried the first day of August.
John Brire & Agnes Thewe (?) were maried the 25 July.
Willm. Bell & Joan Marshall maried the 15 Septembr
1560. Willm. Raynr & Margret Leech maried the 8 of April.
1562. Thoms Collin & Barbara ffishpoole maried 4 of Octr
1563. Edmund Grene & Agnes Patemā maried 19 April.
1564. Thoms Reeder & Elizabeth Slatter mard the 5 day of June.
Jeffery Gardiner & Alice May mard the 9th day of July.
1565. Edward Ratclife and Helen Shakrose mard 19th d. of Augt.
1567. Willm Wright & Margeret Bateman mard 16th d. of June.
1568. James Londt (?) & Hellen ffaronbirdge mard 16th May.
Michaell Heath gent. & Amye fflowerdewe gent. maried the second day of August.

A.D.

1569. Robt. Scalpie & Katherin . . . . maried the 22nd day of May.
George Tetlowe & Alice Gardnr mard 5 day of Octr.

1570. Roger Brearwood Clark & Alice ffishpoole maried the 2nd day of October.

1571. John . . . . & Barbara Collin mard 5 day of Augt.

1575. Jesper Wilkin & Agnes Wright maried the 3rd day Augt.

1576. Robt. Scalpie & Agnes Ewing mard 22nd of Augt.

1577. George Tetlowe & Diana Bateman maried 30 June.

1579. Nicholas Heylott & Helen . . . . . mard 25 Octr.

1582. Robt. Kenion, Me of Arte, & Alice Chune mard the 2nd day of Julye.

1585. Thomas Brand & Ema Jains mard 19th April.
Nicholas Lowrie (?) & ffrances Wilkin mar. 3rd Maye.

1586. Gilbert Whishart & Agnes Scalpie mard 25 day Aprill
Thoms Hopkins & Agnes Alexander mard 28 day February.

1590. Edward Ffishpoole & Agnes Pointer mard 16 Novr.

1592. John Edwarde & Alice Brearwood mard the 9th of April.

1596. Willm Motte & Alice Rain mard the 14th day of November.

1597. Gregory Bulward & Margeret Russell mard the 25 day of Septr.

1598. John Chapman & Marian Coxe (?) mard 13 Augt.

1599. Phillip Ratcliffe & Elizabeth Tealier were mard the 22nd day of April.

1600. Nicholas Wonge, of North Creke, and Elizabeth Lacye were maried July 27.

AN. DOM. 1603, JACO. I.

1603. Peter Samforth & Elizabethe North (?) were maried . . . . (*sic*).
John Foster & Thomasin Pitte widdo. were mard Decr 28.

1606. William Brownside (?) & Elizabethe Rackett were mard May ye 4.
Thomas . . . . & Mary Ffyshpoole were mard the 11th June.

1609. John Baden & Susanna Worthām were mard the 27th of Novr.
Richard Simons & Elizabeth Chapman were mard 23 Janry anno Regis Jaco. 7.

1614. William Skey & Joan Mayne were mard the 19th of Novr.

1615. Thomas Crowfoot, of ye pish. of Hockwold & Martha Hopkins were maried the 2nd daye of September.

1618. Le Strange Awcocke of this parish & Cecily Dexter of Pentney were mard the five & twentith day of July.

A.D.

1619. James Fittz Garrold & Katherine Chunne were marᵈ ye nine & twentith daye of June.

George Southcoate Esquire & Frances Sotherton were married the 20ᵗʰ day of January.

1620. James Reynolds of Bumstead in ye County of Essex Knight & Jane Mordaunt of this parish were married the twelfth daye of June anno supradict.

Thomas Palmer & Jane Skarfe were marᵈ the first day of Octʳ.

Thomas Richardson and Phillis Tillbrooke were married the fifth day of Novʳ.

1621. Edmond Nemes (?) and Esther Monymant were maryed the twenty-fifth of July.

1622. William Jhonson & Barbara Bateman were maried the 24ᵗʰ of June.

1623. Wi . . . . Goggs & Cicely Bateman were maried on Whitsun Tuesday.

Nicholas Hall & Bridget . . . . . (*sic*) were marᵈ on S. Peters Day Aº Dni. 1623.

1627. John Greene & Ann Wakefield were marᵈ the 10ᵗʰ day of June.

1634. Robert Oldman of Bawsey & Elizabeth Purdy of Whissingset were marᵈ Feb. 5ᵗʰ.

1635. Richard Pattricke of Castle Acre & Ellen Eller (?) were married Octʳ. 1.

1637. John Ropar of Some gent. & Grace Wortham were married July 6.

Thomas Leighton & Ann Hawley were married Octob. 19.

1638. Arthur Claxton & Ann Clarke were marᵈ July 18.

1641. Edmund Bell & Mary Alpe were marᵈ June 22.

1645. William Boden & Margaret Diggons were marᵈ 21 Augt.

1646. Henry Potter & Susan Pig were marᵈ 13 day of July.

1647. Robert Burton & Mary Palmer were marᵈ 27 of Sept.

1653. William Blacklock & Matthew Mayne were marᵈ 22 Augt.

September the seconde 1654.

Joseph Hacon of little Massingham Clerke was sworne pish. Register (*sic*) of the sd. pish. according to the act for mariages, births & burials by me

EDM. CREMER J.P.

The Banes of Matrimony between Edward Goo Esquire singleman and Anne Mease widdow, both of the parish of Little Massingham were published three severall Sundays viz. the 3ʳᵈ, the tenth & the seventeenth dayes of Sepᵗʳ anno 1654. The said Edward Goo & Anne Mease were

declared husband & wife before John Pell Esquire Justice of the peace &c. September 28, 1654, in the presence of George Gipps, Gregory Pell gent. & Townshend Wilson Clerk according to the said late act.

JOHN PELL.

Novemb. 9, 1654. William Awcock of this parish singleman & Mary ffitt of great Massingham singlewoman after due publication of their consent unto marriage three severall Lord's daies that is to say the 1 the 8 & the 15 dayes of October in the parishes of Little Massingham and Great Mass: aforesaid and no exceptions thereunto made were then declared Husband and Wife by John Pell Esq^re^ Justice of the peace &c. in the presence of Joseph Hacon Minister & Parish Register of Little Massingham, John Davye and others, according to the late act concerning marriages & the registring thereof &c. JOHN PELL.

1656. William Playfere & Margaret Dixon were married the second day of March.

1659. John Duck and Alice Minns were marrd. the 22 day Dec^r^.

1663. John Eldred of Weotton, widdower and Pleasance Cowper of the same singlewoman were married the seaventh daye of July.

1666. Thomas Wodhouse of Kimberlie Esq^re^ & M^rs^ Anne Ærmine were married September 28^th^, 1666.

1670. William Ramsey of East Rudham & Mary Copeman of Wesenham S. Peters were married 24 of November An. Dom. 1670.

SUNDRY EXTRACTS.

1674. William Toll of Harpley widdower & Dorothy Nurse of Massingham pva. were marryed the 29^th^ day of Aprill.

1682. Stephen Allen of Dersingham & Ann Pell of Massingha p. single-woman were marryed the 18 day of July.

1716. John Mitchley & Anne Minns both single and both of this Parish were marry'd Octob^r^ ye 2^nd^.

1724. Robert Everard & Elizabeth Foster both single and both of this parish were married July ye 2^d^.

1725. Simon Bagg of Stoke & Sarah Heward of this Parish were married by License Oct^r^ 6^th^.

1728. William Whitly & Frances Stuart both single of this parish were marrd. after Banns August 18.

A.D.

1754. Samuel Stanford singleman of Fransham m^a & Mary Rogerson widow of this parish married by license Aug. 25th.

1761. William Nelson Rector of Hillington & Mary Newton of y^e Parish both single were married by license Aprl. 3d.

1791. Rev^d Jonathan Chapman of Swaffham & Alice Newton of Little Massingham were married September 23.

Christnings.

1558. Agnes Alexand^r ye daught^r of Edward Alexand^r baptz. the 15th day of March.

John Scalpie & Margerie Scalpie the children of Robt. Scalpie baptz. the 15th day of June.

Thom̄s Bateman y^e s̄on of James Bateman bapt. the 13 of July.

1559. Willm. Rain the son of Willm. Rain bap. the XXII. day of Dec^r.

1561. John Brire the sone of John Brire bapt. the 8th day of July.

1562. John Grene ye son of Edward Grene bapt. ye 18th day of Oct^r.

Joan Clarke ye daughtr. of John Clarke bapt. ye XVIII. Oct^r.

1563. Thom̄s Scalpie the son of Robt. Scalpie bap. ye XI. of Aprill.

Elizabeth Collin ye daught^r of Tho. Collin bap. ye XXI. of May.

Margeret Alexand^r the daug. of Ed: Alexand^r bap. III. of Oct^r.

James Callabut the son of Thom̄s Callabutt bapt. ye XVI. of Oct^r.

1564. An supposed to be ye daug. of Thom̄s Rain begotten of Isabell Hamond bap. ye 1 day of Aprill.

Robt. Anderson ye son of Robt. And^rson bap. ye XXIII. of Aprill.

Simon Collin the son of Thom̄s Collin bap. the XVI. day of August.

Phillip Wilkinson ye son of James Wilk. bapt. 8th of March.

1565. John & Robt. Collin ye sons of Thom̄s Collins bapt. ye 11 of June.

1566. Phillip Ratcliffe ye sone of Ed. Ratcliff bapt. ye 26 March.

An Hollis ye daughtr. of Willm̄. Hollis Esq. bapt. ye 2 of Januarye.

Brien Alexander ye sone of Edward Alexand^r bap. ye XII. of January.

1567. Henry Ratclife ye sone of Edward Ratclife bapd. VII. of March.

Brien Tailor ye son of Henry Tail^r bapt. ye 21 day of March.

1568. Ed. Collin the sone of Thom̄s Collin bapt. the 12th of September.

Eliza: Hollis ye daught^r of W^m Hollis Esq^re bap. 16th of Januarye.

Edward Ratclife ye sone of Ed: R. bapt. ye 20 March.

1569. An Daives ye daught^r of Tho: Daives bapt. the 22nd of March.

1570. John Lowel ye son of James Lowel bapt. the 30th of Aprill.

A.D.

1570. Ann Collins ye daughtr of Tho: Collins bapt. ye 28th of January.
1571. Nathaniell Wakelin ye son of Robt. Wakelin bapt. ye 6th of Julye.
1572. Georg Mordūnt ye sone of Henry Mordūnt gent. bap. 29th of July.
1573. Mathew Marshall ye sone of John Marshall bapt. 22nd of Sept.
1574. Barbara Mordūnt ye daughtr of Hen: Mor: gent. bapt. 12th of Sept.
1575. Hellen Wilshin ye daughtr of John Wilshin bapt. ye 24th of June.
1576. Georg Mautbire sone of Christopher Mautbire bapt. the 24th of Ffebruary.
1577. Alice Awcock daughter of Peter Awcock bapt. the 13th of October.
1578. Barbara Tetlow daughtr of George Tetlow bapt. 27th of March.
John Wilshin sune of John Wilshin bapt. 4th of August.
1579. Le Strange Awcock sune of Peter Awcock bapt. 12th of September.
ffrūncis supposed to be ye sune of Ric. Whitings or of Ric. ffrūncis borne of Alice . . . . baptz. 7 of March.
1581. Margaret Wasse daughter of John Wasse bapt. the 16th day of May.
Le Strange Myn sone of John Myn bapt. the 11 day of June.
Edward the sune of An Shakrose baseborn bapt. XXIIII. of June.
Edward ffishpool sune of Robt. ff: bapt. ye 12 of March.
1583. Marye ffishpoole daughtr of Robt. ff: bapt. ye second day ffeb.
Charls the sone of Peter Awcock bapt. the second day of June.
1584. Giles Mins sune of John Mins bapt. the III. of May.
Phillip Paghot son of Thoms. P. bap. III. of Jany.
1585. Jane Lowrie daughtr. of Nicholas L. bapt. the 28 of July.
Giles the sune of Christopher Harris bapt. 12 day of September.
1586. An Curlin daughtr of Hillary Cur: bapt. XV. day of Maye.
Clemence daughtr of Robt. ffishpoole bapt. XXVIII. of Aug.
Margret Awcock daug of Peter Awc: bap. IIII. day of Septr.
Nicholas Bateman son of Robt. Ba: bapt. the IX. Octr.
1587. Joseph ye sune of Thoms Hopkins bapt. XVII. day of Aprill.
Thoms Curlin sune of Hillary Cur: bap. XXIV. March.
Alice Hopkins daugh. of Thoms Hop: bapt. XXIV. May.
1588. An Awcock daughtr of Peter Aw: bapt. X. Novr.
Phillis ffishpoole daughtr of Robt. ff: bapt. XVII. ffeb.
1589. Temprance Curlin daug. of Hillary Cur: bapt. VI. day of June.
John ffissher son of Margret ffisher baseborn bapt. XIII. of Julye.
Willm Creak son of Tho: Creke bapt. IIII. Janr.
1590. Agnes Browne daughtr. of Willm Br: bapt. XXV. day of March.

A.D.

1590. Lawrence Barber son of Tho : Bar : bapt. XII. Julye.

1591. Isabell Hopkins daug. of Tho : Hop : bapt. the IV. Aprill.

Ellen ffishpoole daug. of Ed : ff : bapt. 28 Novr.

Katherine Chune daug. of Ric : Ch : bap. the XIII. daye of February.

1592. Mary Graye & Katherine Graye ye children of Tho : Gray bapt. 25 March.

Rose ffishpool daug. of Edward ffishpool bap. 18 May.

1593. Margery Hawlye daughtr. of Thoms Hawlye Mr of Arte bapt. 16 May.

Thoms Chune ye sune of Ric. Chune bapt. 20 Maye.

1594. John Pooly sune of John Poolie bapt. 25 Decembr.

Martha Hopkins daug. of Tho : Hop : bapt. VI. ffebruary.

1595. James ffishpoole sune of Ed. ffishpoole bap. XI. May.

Rose Large daug. of Henry Large bap. V. Decemr.

1596. Jane Chune daughter of Ric. Chune bap. XII. Maye.

Thoms Hawlye sune of Thoms Hawlie Mr of Arte bapt. 18th of August.

Margerie ffishpoole daughtr. of Ed. ffishpoole bapt. IX. January.

1597. Abigail Large daughtr. of Henry Large bap. 28 Octr.

Thoms ffishpoole sune of Robt. ffishpoole bapt. 17 Ffebruary.

1598. Thoms the sune of Thoms Hopkins bapt. XIV. May.

John Clay sune of George Clay bapt. XIV. Septr.

Martha Bulware daughtr. of Gregory Bulware bapt. 24th day of Septembr.

1599. Thoms Pitte the sune of George Pitte was bapt. the 31st day of Decemb.

Margery Johnson the daughtr. of John Johnson was bapt. the XXI. day of January.

Henry Johnson the sune of Adam Johnson was bapt. the 18th day of ffebruary.

George ffishpoole the sune of Edward ffishpoole was bapt. the 8th day of ffebru.

Richard Large the sune of Henry Large was bapt. 6 May.

John ffishpoole the sune of Robt. ffishpoole was bapt. 17th June.

Edward Ratcliffe the sune of Phillip Ratcliffe was bapt. July the 15th day.

Dinas Chapman daughtr. of John Chapman was bapt. IX. Septr.

A.D.

1600. Alice ffishpoole the daughtr. of Edward ffishpoole was bapt. the xx. day of Jan^{y}.

William Dawes supposed to be the sune of Willm. Cole servant to M^{r} Mordūnt gent. bapt. the 29th day of March.

1601. Stephen Chapman the sune of John Chapman was bapt. the 1st ffeb.

Jane Ward daught^{r} of Robt. Ward bap. 31 May.

Henry Large sune of Henry Large bapt. 6 Sept^{r}.

1602. Jane ffishpoole daught^{r} of Edward ff: bapt. Jan^{y}. 24.

Rose Pitte daught^{r} of George Pitte bapt. 24 ffeb^{y}.

Thoms. & Jane Curson twin children of Henry Curson were borne & baptized the 28th day of March.

John Johnson sune of Adam Johnson bapt. May 10.

Robt. ffishpoole sune of Robt. ff: bapt. xxii. July.

Robt. Hopkins sone of Thom̄s Hopkins bap. April 24.

Sara Ratcliffe daugtr. of Phillip Ratcliffe was bapt. the 1st of August.

Thoms. Ward sone of Robt. Ward bapt. 5 Sept^{r}.

1603. Margarethe ffishpoole the daughtr. of Edw̄d ffishpoole & Anne his wyffe was bapt. the xxiii. of Dec^{r} 1603.

1604. Katheryne Johnson daughtr. of Adam Johnson bapt. ye xxvii. Decemb.

Josephe Wardde sonne of Robart Warde . . . . was bapt. iv. day of ffeb.

1607. Jane Foster ye daughtr. of John Foster was bapt. ye xxth day of October. *(sic.)*

1606. Dorathey ffyshpoole daughtr. of Edwde. ffyshpoole was bapt. ye 17th of August. *(sic.)*

1608. Susan Johnson the daug. of Adam Johnson was bapt. ye 24th of May 1608.

An ffishpoole the daug. of Edward ffishpoole bapt. 12 March.

1609. James Pilkington the sonne of James Pilkington & Ann his wyfe was baptized ye xxviii. day of January.

1610. Rose Seman the daug. of Richard Seman & Elizabethe his wyfe was bapt. the xiii. day Septr.

Elizabethe Johnson the daughter of Adam Johnson & Katherine his wyfe was bapt. ye 10 March.

1611. William ffoster the sonne of John ffoster bapt. 27 Octr.

1612. John Seman ye sone of Richard Seman & Elizabethe his wyfe bapt. 27 Dec^{r}.

A.D.

1612. Martyn ffoster the sonne of John ffoster was bapt. 7 Octr.

Richard Rayn^{r} ye sonne of Thom̄s Rayn^{r} & Bridget his wyffe was bapt. ye 23 Jan^{y}.

Thomas Sutton ye sonne of William Sutton & Ellyne his wyffe was bapt. 29th ffeb.

1613. James Wyesman ye sonne of Thomas Wyesman & Mary his wyffe bapt. ye IX. day of January.

David Rayn^{r} ye sone of Thomas Rayn^{r} & Bridget his wyfe was bapt. 13 day of ffeb.

Martin ffoster ye sonne of John ffoster was bapt. 5 October.

1615. Charles Mordaunt the sonne of Robert Mordaunt Esquire and Amy his wyffe was baptized the XXXIth of Jully anno 1615.

Ffrannces Skey the daughtr. of Willm̄ Skey & Jane his wiffe was baptizd. the 17th of December.

1616. Katherin Crowfoot the daughtr. of Thomas Crowfoot & Martha his wife was baptzd. the 22nd Septr.

1617. Edmund Rayner ye sonne of Thomas Rayner was baptzd. the 1st day of June.

John the sonne of John Wasse was baptzd. the 1st day of Jan^{y}.

Robert Mordaunt the sonne of Robert Mordaunt Esquire & Amy his wife was baptized the 15th day of January anno dni. 1617.

1618. ffrances the daughter of Edward Thorowgood Clerke was baptzed. the 3rd day of Aprill.

Martin the son of Thomas Rayner was baptized the 5th day of July.

Jane Skey the daughter of William Skey was baptzd. the 10th October.

1620. Fraunces the daughter of S^{r} Robert Mordaunt & Ladye Amy his wife was baptised the tenth day of October anno dni. supradict.

Thomas filius Georgii Southcot Armigeri & ffranciscæ . . . . . baptizatur fuit duodecimo die decembris.

1621. William the sonne of Strange Awcocke was baptzd. the twenty nine of June.

Adam the sonne of Adam Jhonson was bapt. the eyght day of July anno suprascripto.

Mary the daug. of Nicholas Bateman was bapt. 9 Augt.

Sara the daughtr. of Nicholas Bateman was baptised the day and yeere above written.

Anne the daughter of S^{r} Robert Mordaunt and Lady Amy his wife was baptized the sixt of January A^{o} suPdict. *(sic.)*

A.D.

1622. Robertus Bateman filius Nicholai baptizat fuit . . . die Octobris.
Robertus filius Gulielmi Moore baptizat fuit nono die Martii An° supdict.

1623. Elizabetha filia Jacobi Fishpoole baptizata fuit Setimo die Maii.
Amy the daughter of S^r Robert Mordaunt & the Lady Amy his wife was baptized the 25 of July 1623.

1624. Willi . . . ffil. Willm̄. Hardy baptizat fuit 1° die Augusti.
Robertus filius Jacobi Fishpoole baptizat fuit decimo die Martii.
Robertus filius Robt. ffeake baptizat fuit sexto die ffebruarii.

1625. Le Strange filius Thomæ Toll & Annæ uxor baptiz. fuit tricessimo die Junii anno 1625.
Abigail filia Adami Johnson et Margarett uxor ejus baptizat fuit vicessimo die Augusti anno 1624. *(sic.)*
Elizabetha filia Willi^m Hardy et Margeriæ uxor ejus baptizat fuit quarto die Decembris anno 1625.

1626. Sara filia illegittima Elizabethæ Kidd baptizat fuit vicessimo tertio die Aprilis.
Phillis filia Guliel. Harman et Cihlia uxor ejus baptizat undecimo die Junii anno 1626.
Thomas filius Thomæ Ringwood et Katherinæ uxor ejus baptiz: duodecimo die mensis Novemb.

1627. Edward the sonne of James Ffishpoole was baptzd. the 9^th Septr.
Katherine the daughtr. of W^m Johnson was bapt. Dec^r 2.

1628. Anthonie ye son of Tho: Ringwood & Katherine his wife was bapt. Julie the first.
Thomas the son of Robert ffeake was bapt. Sep. 21.
Robert the son of John Fishpoole & Alice his wife was bapt. Sep. 25.
John the son of Will^m Ffoster & Dorothe his wife was bapt. Dec^r 28.

1629. Henrie the son of W^m Harman & Cicilie his wife was bapt. April 19.
Katherin ye daughter of Tho: Ringwood & Katherin his wife was baptzd. Julie 9.
James the sonne of Andrew Rayner & Agnes his wife was baptized Sep. 20.
Thomas the son of Willim̄ ffellow & Jeane his wife was baptized Sep. 27.
John the son of Willim̄. Johnson & Marie his wife was baptized Sep. 29.

A.D.

1630. Mary the daughter of James ffishpoole & Sara his wife was baptized Aprill 4.

John the son of John ffishpoole & Allice his wife was baptized the 27 day of December 1630.

Robert the son of Wm Harman & Cicilie his wife was baptized the 13 of february.

1631. Robert the son of Robert Cremer & Temperance his wife was bapt. Decr 20.

1632. Thomas the son of Andrew Rayner & Ann his wife was bapt. April 3.

Edmund the son of Robert Cremer & Temperance his wife was bapt. January 13.

Sara the daughtr. of James ffishpoole & Sara his wife baptzd. March 14.

1633. William the son of William ffellow & Jane his wife was bapt. April 7.

Thomas the son of Nicholas Bateman & Jane his wife was bapt. February 19.

1634. Bridget the daughter of Robert Cremer gentleman & Temperance his wife was baptizd. May 27.

William the son of Wm Harman & Cicely his wife bapt. July 13.

Elizabeth the daug. of Andrew Rayner & Ann his wife bapt. Jany 25.

1635. Thomas the son of Robert Cremer gentleman & Temperance his wife bapt. May 24.

Edward the son of William ffellow & Jane his wife was baptized Septemb. 13.

1636. Alice the daug. of Robt. Cremer gent: & Temperance his wife bapt. Decr 27.

Thomas the son of James ffishpoole & Sara his wife was baptized January 22 anno supradicto.

1637. William the son of Willm Mynnes & Alice his wife bapt. April 2.

James the son of William ffellow & Jane his wife bapt. July 16.

William the son of Andrew Rayner & Ann his wife bapt. 10 Decr.

ffrances the daughtr. of Robt. Cremer gent. & Temperance his wife bapt. January 18.

1638. Arthur the son of Willm. Plafer & Dorothie his wife was baptized April 15, 1638.

1639. Richard the son of Willm. ffellow & Jeane his wife bapt. May 12.

A.D.

1639. Henry the son of Robert Cremer & Temperance his wife was baptized Decr 4.

1640. Robt. the sonne of Andrew Rayner & Ann his wife bapt. Nov. 1.
Thomas the son of Nicholas Bateman bapt. 1st of Jany.

1641. Willim the sonne of Robt. Cremer & Temperance his wife bapt. March 28.

1642. John the sonne of Robt. Cremer & Temperance his wife bapt. July 12.
Alice the daughter of William Mynns & Alice his wife bapt. Jany 15.

1643. Katherine the daughter of Michael Harison & Margarett his wife bapt. July 6.
John the sonne of Robert Cremer & Temperance his wife bapt. ye 22 day of September.
William & Elizabeth ye sonne & daughtr. of William ffellow & Jane his wife were baptized ye (blank) day of Septr.
Anne ye daughter of Andrew Rayner & Anne his wife was baptized ye 15 day of October.

1644. Ellen ye daught. of Willm. Mynnes & Alice his wife was baptized the 12 day of Aprill.
John the sonne of Sir Charles Mordaunt & ladye Katherin his wife was baptized the 25 day of Aprill.
Katherine the daughter of Robert Cremer & Temperance his wife was baptized the 24 day of November.
Henry ye sonne of Sir Charles Mordaunt & Ladye Katharine his wife was baptized the 21 day of March.

1645. Robert the sonne of William Plafer & Dorothye his wife bapt. the 14 day of Aprill.
Mary ye daughter of Willm ffellow & Jane his wife bapt. 8 June.
Charles the sonne of Robert Cremer & Temperance his wife was bapt. the fifth day of March.

1646. Elizabeth the daughter of John Seaman & Susan his wife bapt. 26 July.
Elizabeth the daug. of Michael Harrison & Margaret his wife bapt. 27 Septr.
John the son of Robert Read & Mary his wife bapt. 4th October.

1647. Alice the daughter of Willm ffellow & Jane his wife bapt. sixth day of June.
Richard the sonne of William Mynnes & Alice his wife bapt. the 29 December.

A.D.

1648. William the son of William Plafer and Dorithy his wife bapt. 9 Aprill.
Thomas the sonne of Richard Reaper & Anne his wife baptized 30 July.
Rose the daughter of John Seman & Susan his wife bapt. 27 August.

1649. Robert the son of William ffellow & Jane his wife bapt. 2nd Septr.

1650. Francis the daughter of Edward Harwood & Francis his wife bapt. 3rd July.
Richard the son of Richard Reaper & An his wife bapt. 20 October.
Michael the son of William Mynnes & Alice his wife bapt. 9 Feb.
Mary the daug. of Thomas Rainer & Anne his wife bapt. 16 feb.

1651. Frances the daug. of Edward Harwood & Frances his wife bapt. 20 July.
Margaret the daughtr. of Michael Harrison & Margaret his wife bapt. 8 January.

1652. Mary the daug. of John Seman & Susan his wife bapt. 20 June.
Hugh the son of Hugh Hovell gent. & Elizabeth his wife was bapt. the 16 of December.

1653. Robert the son of Thomas Rainer & Anne his wife was bapt. the 17 Aprill.
Sara the daug. of Robert Innall & Sara his wife was borne the 6 day of December and baptized the 11 day of December.
Elizabeth the daughter of Hugh Hovell gent. & Elizabeth his wife was borne & baptized the 15 day of February.

1654. Alice Bullock the daughter of Richard Bullock & Jane his wife was borne the 15 day of Sep. & baptized the 17 day of the same month.

1655. Cœlia the daughter of Charles Perkins Esquire & Dionys his wife was baptized the 3 of October.
Mary the daughter of Michael Harrison & Margaret his wife was born Oct. 26 & bapt. Oct. 28.

1657. Charles the son of Charles Parkins Esquire & Dionys his wife was baptized the 17 day of December.
Anne the daughter of Robert Bircham & Elizabeth his wife bapt. 21 Decemb.

1658. Katharin the daughter of Willm. Plafer & Margaret his wife was bapt. the 28 day of April.

1660. Richard the son of Thomas Smith & Alice his wife was bapt. 3rd day of June.

A.D.

1661. John the son of Charles Parkins Esquire & Dionys his wife was baptized the sixt. day of November.

1662. Robert the son of William Harman & Alice his wife bapt. 18 May.

1663. William the sonne of William Harman & Alice his wife bapt. 5 day July.
Elizabeth the daug. of Richard Glover & Anne his wife bapt. 23 Augt.

1664. Silas Pitkerine the son of William & Mary his wife bapt. Septr. 7th.
Elizabeth the daug. of William Plafer & Margaret his wife bapt. Jany. 15.

1667. Thomas the son of Edward Hart & Elizabeth his wife was baptized 7 July.
Elizabeth ye daug. of William Harman & Mary his wife bapt. 10 Novr.

1668. Elizabeth ye daug. of Edward Hart & Elizabeth his wife bapt. 30 August.

1669. Thomas ye son of Peter Gray & Dorothy his wife baptz. 17 Octr.
Allen ye son of James Manfyeld & Katherine his wife bapt. ye 7 November.
Mary the daug. of William Harman & Mary his wife bapt. 26 Decr.

1670. Margarett the daughter of Edward Hart & Elizabeth his wife bapt. 7 August.

SUNDRY EXTRACTS.

1675/6. Charles the son of Charles Preston Clerk and Mary his wife was bapt. at the Sacred Font, the 27th of Jany., 167$\frac{5}{6}$.

1676/7. Mary the daug. of Charles Preston Clerk & Mary his wife was baptized at ye Font ye 5th. of March, 167$\frac{6}{7}$.

1678. Jacob the sonn of Charles Preston by Mary his wife was baptized at the Font the 15th of April, 1678.

1679 Jacob ye son of Charles Preston Clerk by Mary his wife was baptzd. ye 24th of Febry., 1679, at ye Font.

1692/3. John the son of Edward Green by Bridget his wife bapt. 28 March.

1694. Joanna the daug. of Edward Greene by Bridget his wife bapt. 7 Decr.

1697. Dennis Pepper ye son of Tho: Stewarde & Mary his wife was baptized———— (blank).

1702. Tho: Steward the sun of Thos: Steward & Mary his wife was baptized the 19 August.

1705. Ann the dagter. of Thom. Steward & Mary his wife was baptized Jany. 10.

A.D.

1715. Thomas ye son of Edward Ratcliffe by Sarah his wife was baptized March 27.

Mr. Samuel Healy M.A. was buryed May 18, 1715. *(sic.)*

1722. Anne ye daughter of Mr. Thomas Steward & Mary his wife was baptized October. 8.

1724. John ye son of Mr. Thomas Steward & Mary his wife was bapt. September 15.

1725. John the son of Robt. Everard by Elizth. his wife was bapt. April 9.

1726. Mary daughter of Mr. Thomas Steward & Mary his wife bapt. June 2.

Elizabeth daug. of Robert Everard by Mary his wife bapt. Decr. 2.

Mary daug. of Simon Bagg by Sarah his wife bapt. Feb. 16.

1728. Ann daughter of Mr. Thomas Steward by Mary his wife bapt. April 22.

1730. Frances daughter of Mr. Thomas Steward by Mary his wife bapt. April 5.,

1731. Thomas son of Thomas Steward by Mary his wife was bapt. March 5.

1734. Grace daughter of Tho. Steward & Mary his wife was bapt May 11.

1735. Grace daughter of Thomas Steward & Mary his wife bapt. Sept. 10.

1737. Charles son of Thomas Steward & Mary his wife bapt. June 12th.

1739. Hannah daug. of Thos. Steward by Mary his wife bapt. Nov. 4th.

1773. Thomas son of Thomas Feaconbridge by Anne his wife bapt. Dec. 26.

1775. John son of Thomas Feaconbridge by Anne his wife bapt. May 14.

1776. Charles son of the Reverend Charles Mordaunt by Charlotte his wife was born March 26, baptized April 17.

1810. George son of William Wodehouse Clerk (Curate in Charge of L. Massghm.) by Mary his wife (late Mary Hussey) was born July 8th. baptized July 12, 1810.

Burials.

A.D.

1558. Ann Bell daughtr. of Ric. Bell was buried the XXI. of November.

Thoms. ffishpoole was buried XXXI. of May.

B. St. Jams. Bastard psn. of Little Mass. was buried the XXth day of August.

A. Alice Bateman daughtr. of James Bateman was buried the XVI. June.

A.D.

1558. John Bell sun of Ric. Bell bu: v. Novembr.
John the sun of Willm. Justins of Walby bu: 25 Augt.

1559. Katherine the wiffe of Phillip Mordunt Esq. buried ye xxvth day of January.
Lucy Bell, daughtr. of Ric. Bell, bu: 16 March.

1560. Thoms. Batemen sun of James Ba: was bur: the xxiiiith of february.

1561. Emma the wiffe of Willm. Rainr was bur: the viii. day of March.
John Brire sun of Jo: Brire bur: xiiii. Septr.

1562. Athelie Grene wife of Edmond Grene was bur: the vth of Nov.

1563. Elizabeth Collin daughtr. of Tho: Collin bur: the xv. June.

1564. Simon the sun of Tho: Collin was bur: 17 Augt.

1565. John & Robt. the suns of Tho: Collin bur: 16 June.

1566. Jeffary Gardner was bur: xxii. August.

1567. Ladye An Hollis wiffe of Phillip Mordunt Esq. burd xxviiith day of Septemb.
Agnes wife of Robt. Stralpy bu: xii. Decem.
Henry sun of Ed: Ratcliffe bur: xvi. March.

1569. Edward Ratclife sun of Ed. Rat: was bur: 28 April.

1570. Thomas Collin was bur: 6th March.

1571. Nathaniell Wakelin son of Robt. Wa: bur: 7 July.
Joan Slater widow bur: 28th July.

1573. Alice Tetlow was bur: v. May.
Margret Albone & Mathew Marshall her sun bur: xxvi. Septr.

1574. Katherin the wife of Robt. Scalpie was bur: 9 Decr.

1576. Brian Goodalas bur: 13 Novembr.

1577. Agnes Man wid. bur: 3 Decr.
Edward Carfr bur: 14 March.

1578. Thoms. Rainer was bur: 24 April.
Briget ffrost drowned in the comon well bur: the 6 Novr.
Phillis maidservant to Gils Capps gent. bur: 26 Novembr.

1581. Barbara Mordant gent. widowe was buried the xxviith day of Aprill.
Robt. Scalpie was bur: xxiii. of Novembr.
Steven Dallis was bur: x. Janr.

1583. Edward the son of Robt. ffishpoole was bur: the last day of Decembr.
Margret the wiffe of Giles Capps gent. bur: the xxiii. of ffebruary.
Edward Mordunt, gent. bur: ix. of March.

A.D.

1584. Margaret Harris daughtr. of xx for (Xtopher?) Harris was bur: 23 Aprill.
Margaret Alexander bur: 27 May.
Giles Capp gent. bu: xiith. of August.
——Pooly daughtr. of——Pooly bur: 27 October.
Edward Alexander bur: 29 Novr.
1585. James ffishpoole was bur: v. June.
1586. Thoms. Nicols was bur: 14 Sep.
Joan the wiffe of Simone Pooly was bur: 19 Sep.
Margerie wiffe of John Minns, bur: 22 ffeb.
Margaret the daughtr of Peter Awcock bur: ffeb. 21.
1587. Barbara the wiffe of John Wilchin bur: 18 ffeb.
1588. Alice Robinson of Hichm a poor woman bur: 26 May.
Phillis the daug. of Robt. ffishpoole bur: 3 April.
1590. Agnes the daug. of Willm Browne bur: 1st April.
John Holdr. say, a poor man, bur: 18 August.
Laurence Barber son of Tho: Bar. bur: 20 Aug.
Chrisan ffishpoole, wid: was bur: xx. November.
1591. John Poolye son of John Pooly bur: 25 Aprill.
Roger Brearwood Clark & Psn. (Parson?) of this towne was bur: the xv. day of August.
1592. An Bateman wife of James Ba: was bur: 7 Jany.
1593. James Bateman was bur: 7 May.
Ann ffoul maid was bur: xv. January.
Katherine the daug. of Thoms Gray bur: xv. March.
1596. Alice Palmer a poor woman bur: 14 May.
Jane Chune daughtr. of Rich. Chune bur: 13 Augt.
Isabell ffishpoole, wife of Robt. ff: bur: 19 January.
1597. Robt Lowe laborer for Mr. Cary Esqre was bur: 9 Aprill.
James Rainer bur: 14 May.
John Reeder bur: xii Novr.
Thoms ffishpoole the son of Robt. ffish: bur: 27 ffebruary.
1599. George the sonne of Edward ffishpoole was bur: xii. day of March
Dinas the daug. of John Chapman bur: 18 Decembr.
Agnes Wiskar widowe bur: 24 Decr.
1600. An Large the daug. of Henry Large bur: 1st Septr.
Willm Dawes supposed to be the son of Wm Cowe was buried 13 May.

A.D.

1600. Peter Awcocke buried 1st Novr.

1601. Jane Ward daug of Robt. Ward bur: 11 Julie.
John Clarke was bur: 21st August.
Widowe Alexander was buried 27 ffebruary.

1602. Jane Curson daug. of Henry Curson bur: 8 Aprill.
Robt. Mordunt Esquier dyed & was buried the xxixth day of Maye anno suprdict.
Mr. Thomas Hawley psōn of this towne was buried the 30th day of October.

1603. George Pitte bur: 26 Septr.

1604. John Ashley bur: ye (blank).
Symonde Poolye bur: 25 Aug.
Thomas fowley bur: 18 Octr.
Mathewe Neithe bur: 16 Septr.

1605. Janne Smythe wyeffe of George Smythe bur: 26 Decembr.
Ellyn Lovell (?) bur: 4 January.
——Rayner widd. bur: 16 Jany.

1606. Charles Awcocke bur: 4 Decemb.
Isabell ffowlle was bur: 26 Janry.
Mrs. Margaret Mordant wyeffe to Mr. Lestrange Mordant was buriede the xvii. day of March 1606.

1607. Phillippe Ratleffe was bur: the xxii. Novr.
Theophrastus Woodde was bur: ffeb. *(sic.)*

1608. Jylian Giels wiffe of Thomas Giells bur: 17 March.
Henry Dixon bur: xxii. March.
Thomas Hopkyn bur: 24 Novembr.
Thomas Giels a young man bur: 14 Augt.
William Giels a young man bur: 30 Sep.

1610. ——Goodman bur: 8 day Octr.

1611. ——ffendich ? bur: 9 Novr.
Robt. Branson bur: 23 Decem.
Strange Myns was bur: 30 Janry.
John West servant to Mr. Pilkington was bur: 16 June.

1612. Rychard Rayner bur: 17 ffeb.
Hellyn Sutton was bur: 7 March.
Dyena Chapman bur: 6 Aprill.

1613. Steven Chapman bur: 15 Aprill.

A.D.

1613. Joan ffyshpoole bur: 26 Augt.

1614. ffrances Pilkington bur: 12 March.

Robert Goosleton? was bur: ye (blank).

1613. James Wyesman bur: 16 January 1613.

Alice Wyesman wid. bur: 11 March 1613.

Mary Alexander bur: 5 April 1613.

1616. Andrew Pilkington Clerke was bur: the xxix. Augt.

Isabell Hopkins was bur: 8 day Decr.

William Dalton bur: 2 Jany.

1617. Edmund Rayner the sonne of Thomas Rayner bur: xv. day of June.

Robert Mordaunt the sonne of Robt. Mordaunt Esquire was buried the 25 ffebruary anno supradict.

1618. Martin Rayner the sonne of Thomas Rayner bur: 5 July.

Bridgett the wiffe of Thos. Rayner bur: 6 July.

Thomasine wife of John ffoster bur: 15 July.

Katherine wife of Adam Johnson bur: 29 Septr.

Janie wife of Wm Skey bur: 10 Octr.

Rose ffishpoole daug. of Ed. ffishpoole bur: 9 Decembr.

1619. Edward fishpoole bur: 26 Janv.

1620. Elizabeth Ffraunces daug. of Richard Ffraunces bur: 11th May.

Edward Thorowgood Rector of this p.ish. church was bur: 7th Decemb.

——(blank) Oldman the daug. of Robt. Oldman a poor parishioner buried in (blank) ffeb.

1621. Grace ffoster bur: 1st May.

Sarah daug. of Nicholas Bateman bur: 10 Augt.

1622. Strange Awcocke bur: fifth March.

Charles Awcocke son of Strange Awc: bur: 17 Aprill.

Mr. Robert Gardiner was bur: the 24 March.

1623. Mr. Richard Chun was buryed 6 March.

William Abey bur: sixt. March.

1624. Adam Jhonson bur: 22 Aprill.

William Bendish bur: 22 March.

1625. Barbara Johnson bur: 2 May.

Clement ffishpoole bur: 19 Decem.

Mr. Thomas Toll bur: 26 January.

A.D.

1626. Ann fishpoole widdow bur: last day of May.
Rose Clarke widdow bur: 28 Septr.

1627. Sr Le Strange Mordant Knight &c. was buried the three-&-twentyeth day of Aprill.
Henrie Johnson a younge man was bur: the twentieth day of June.
Thomas the sonne of Thomas Ringwood bur: the 29 Decemb.

1628. Marie wiffe of Thos. Wiseman bur: 25 March.
Anthonie son of Thos. Ringwood bur: Augt. *(sic.)*
Thomas the sonne of Robt. Feake bur: 12 Oct.
Robert Fishpoole bur: March 24.

1631. Robert Itteringham servant to Mr Ro. Cremer bur: 16 April.
An Hopkins widdow bur: Aprill 20.
Tho: More servant to Mr. Ro. Cremer bur: May 19.
Thomas Wiseman bur: June 2.
ffrancis daug. of Tho. Crowfoote bur: Jan. 9.
Thomas Chunne gentleman buried Jany. 28.

1633. Mrs Ann Toll widdow bur: Aug. 29.

1634. Jone the wiffe of Thomas Bloome bur: March 29.
Richard Seaman bur: Aprill 28.

1635. James ffitz Garrold gentleman bur: May 21.

1636. John the son of William Mynnes & Allice his wife bur: June 12.
Thomas Rayner bur: June 22.

1637. James the son of Willm ffellow & Jane his wife bur: feb. 27.

1638. ffrances Thorowgood bur: Dec. 28.

1639. Thomas the son of Nicholas Bateman bur: Aprill 6.

1640. Katherin Richman bur: Sep. 10.
Willm Cremer was bur: Dec. 14.
Amy Skot bur: Dec 23.
Willm the sonne of Willm ffellow bur: ffeb. 8.
Bridget Cremer bur: ffeb. 23.

1643. John Cremer bur: April 23.
Elizabeth Seaman widow bur: ye (blank) Septr.

1644. Tollemach Mordant the son of Sir Charles Mordant was bur: the 27 day of June 1644.
Martin Trollop an old man was buried 12 Septr.
Mris Amy Mordaunt was buried the 6 day of October.

A.D.

1644. Henry the sonne of Sir Charles Mordaunt was buried the 24 day of March 1644.

1645. Katharine the wife of John Seaman bur: 15 Aprill.
William Dickson bur: 23 March.

1646. Susan Johnson bur: 2 May.
Mary the daughter of William ffellow bur: 17 March.

1648. Sir Charles Mordaunt Knight & Baronet was buryed the 15 day of July.
Mary Person bur: 26 Decr.
Thomas Mason bur: 15 ffeb.
John Foster an old man bur: 13 March.
Alice the daug. of Willm. Fellow bur: 23 March.

1649. Katherine the daug. of Robert Cremer gent. bur: 11 Jany.
William Peim gent. was buryed 19 March.

1650. Francis daug. of Edward Harwood bur: 4 July.
James fishpole was bur: 16 Sep.
Richard son of Richard Reaper bur: 25 Decr.
Amy the daughter of Sr. Charles Mordaunt (deceased) & lady Katherine his wife was bur: the 22 day of January.
John Branch bur: 15 feb.

1652. Allen Homes bur: 5 Aug.
Hugh the son of Hugh Hovell gent. bur: 21 Jany.
John Harwood bur: 21 feb.

1653. Mary Beament bur: 5 Julye.
Elizabeth the daughtr. of Hugh Hovell gent. was bur: 26 day of ffeb.
Cicily wife of William Harman bur: 10 ffeb.

1654. John Seaman bur: 21 Aprill.
William Awcock bur: 18 Jany.

1656. Dorothie wife of Wm Plafer bur: 7 Septr.
Thomas Crowfoot bur: 23 Octr.
Rose Peim widow bur: ffeb. 7.
Philip Harman daughtr. of Wm Harman bur: 23 feb.

1657. Martha Crowfoot widow bur: 12 Novr.
Michael Harrison bur: 29 Decr.
Thomas Taylour bur: 19 Janr.
Gregory Corbet bur: 12 feb.

A.D.

1660. Roger Hayward bur: 2 March.

1661. Willm Harman bur: 4 Augt.
Henry Baldwin bur: 17 Augt.
Dionys the wife of Charles Parkins Esquire bur: 23 November.

1662. Elizabeth the daugh. of Hugh Hovell gent bur: 14 June.
Joseph Hacon Rector of this parish was buried the 18th daye of September.

1663. Edward the sonne of Wm Fellowe & Jane his wife bur: 29 January.

1664. Sir Charles Mordant Knt & Baronet dyed April ye 24th A. Dom. 1664.
Edward Salter Rector of this Parish was buryed the 26 of May.
John Smart Mr Bunyes man bur: Novr 26.
Alice Lane bur: Dec. 3.

1665. Alice the wife of William Harman bur: March 30.
Arthur son of Wm Plaford & Dorothie his wife bur: Aug. 23.
Richard Bene bur: Sep. 15.
James Bowes bur: Sep. 29.

1667. Thomas the son of Ed. Hart & Elizabeth his wife bur: 13 Novr.
Martha the wife of John Miles bur: feb. 11.

1670. Mary daug. of Wm Harman & Mary his wife bur: March 4.

SUNDRY EXTRACTS.

1673. Mr. Lockwood minister of this parish of Little Massingham was buried the 1st September 1673.

1675/6. E . . . . . Salter widdow & relict of Edward Salter was buried the 24th of March.

1678. Jacob the son of Charles Preston by Mary his wife bur: 15 Augt.

1686. Thomas Steward of Gt. Massingham deceased was buried here March 1st 1686 according to ye Act of Parl. entitled an act for burying in woollen.

1687/8. Michael ye son of Thomas Steward of Gt. Mass. bur: in this parish March 9 accordg. to Act of P. entitled an A. fr. burying in woollen.

1694. Margreat the wife of Thomas Stuart bur: 8 June.

1705. Katherine Mordaunt ye daughter of Sr Charles Mordaunt was buried May 27th, 1705.

1713. Thom Steward was buried April 24th.

A.D.

1720. Ann Steward daughter of Thomas & Mary Steward bur : Sep. 16.

1723. Anne ye daughtr. of Mr. Thomas Steward & Mary his wife buryed 8 Sep.

1726. Elizabeth Everard infant was buried Dec. 6.

1734. Grace Steward an infant bur : July 25.

1739. Hannah Steward infant bur : Jan. 3.

1740. Thomas Steward bur : March 25.

1744. Mary Steward widow aged 84 buried Jan. 14.

1745. John Steward buried Dec. 5.

1868. Charles David Brereton, Rector of Little Massingham, bur. 21 Oct., aged 78.

1880. Frances Brereton, widow, buried 22nd March, 1880.

WATERLOW AND SONS LIMITED, PRINTERS, LONDON WALL, LONDON.

LITERATURE. 24.2.83

MASSINGHAM PARVA: PAST AND PRESENT. By the Rev. Ronald F. McLeod, Acting Chaplain to the Forces, Cyprus. London: Waterlow & Sons, Limited, London Wall, 1882.

THIS is another interesting contribution to Norfolk history. Owing to the social revolutions of the past two centuries having changed the relative importance of different parts of England, it is difficult for us to realise the prominent part formerly played by Norfolk men in the history of our country. The many fortified mansions and stately manor houses, and the numerous churches which dot our county, suggest to us that in mediæval times Norfolk was the home of an influential and powerful gentry dwelling in or near villages which had a considerable population, who were not solely dependent for their subsistence on growing corn or rearing sheep and cattle. Nearly every parish in Norfolk furnishes materials which witness to the former political preeminence of the county. Of this the work before us of 160 handsomely printed quarto pages affords a notable example. The book is divided into several parts. The first gives a history of the lords of the manor, and the second an account of former distinguished residents of the parish. The third is devoted to parochial information, the fourth to St. Andrew's Church, the fifth to the rectors, the sixth to Castleacre Priory Manor, the seventh to St. Mary's Priory, the eighth to Creyke Abbey, and the last to the parish registers from 1558 to 1660. The authenticated history of Massingham Parva may be said to commence with the records of its payment of Danegelt, and of Earl Harold, son of Godwin, and certain English freemen having lordships and lands there; but our author very properly prefaces it with a brief narrative to show how those events were brought about. After the defeat of Harold at Senlac, much of West Norfolk, contiguous to the fastnesses of the Fens, maintained its independence till the dislodgement of Hereward from Ely. Orgar and Scula, English freemen of Little Massingham, were among those who "acknowledged no superior, paid no tribute, and continued to manage their estates according to the example of immemorial custom." Scula's lands, after the stamping out of the opposition to William, were assigned to Eudo, lord of Tatteshall, Lincolnshire. Orgar's estate, with part of Harold's lordship, was given to Eustace, Count of Boulogne. The other part of King Harold's demesne the Conqueror kept in his own hands. Eustace, lord of Little Massingham, a descendant of Charlemagne, delivered his lands to Wido Angevin, as sub-tenant, who "seems to have chosen Little Massingham for his favorite residence." His son Roger took the surname of "De Massingham," and Roger's son Robert took the name of "De Thorpe, on account of the estate which he owned near Wymondham." This Sir Robert De Thorpe came forward to assist William, Earl of Warren, in the endowment of the beautiful Cluniac Priory at Castleacre. His son, Sir Hugh, was also a benefactor of the priory, and Hugh's son John, by his marriage with the daughter of Sir Robert De Creyke, added the Creake estates to his possessions. Sir John's son, Robert Fitzjohn, was one

illustrious family of Howard, and to the present Duke of Norfolk this work is dedicated. In the 16th century the manor passed successively into the possession of the Capels and Mordaunts, and concerning members of the latter family our author has collected together many interesting memorials of their prominence in the great national struggle during the Stuart period. It is almost needless to say that they espoused the cause of the king. This part of the work is exceedingly interesting, as it consists in fact of a series of well-written biographical sketches embracing references to many memorable events in English history. The other parts are worked out in an equally thorough manner, and the writer has done his utmost to invest the simple annals of the parish with an attractive garb. We could have wished that our author had given more copious extracts from the pamphlets of the Rev. C. D. Brereton, the rector of Massingham more than fifty years ago, who was among the foremost to call attention to the degraded condition of the peasantry, and to advocate social reforms, particularly of the Poor Law. Our author says "the state of education in Little Massingham in 1826" is thus described by the Rev. C. D. Brereton: "There are only two labourers in the parish who can read. We have had some difficulty in filling up the parish offices of constable and clerk. It has been a work of difficulty to induce parents to permit their children to be taught. Had I not possessed advantages my attempts must have failed." Mr. McLeod has done his work well and has produced a parochial history which, unencumbered with tedious notes, may be adopted as a pattern by all who desire that the results of their researches in similar fields of labor may be read after they are published.

Famagusta
Cyprus
December 26. /82

House
Lynn
January 1883.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith two copies of "Mariyghaw Parva Past & Present" which you were so kind as to order by your letter of June 29th, 1881. and I trust they may meet with your approval. I regret that circumstances over which I had no control have delayed the publication of the work.

The amount may be forwarded to Mr. Edward Walker, St Margarets' House, Kings Lynn, who is authorised to receive and to acknowledge the same for me, and who will be happy to forward any additional copies of the book that may be required.

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LITERATURE. 24.1.83

MASSINGHAM PARVA: PAST AND PRESENT. By the Rev. Ronald [illegible]cLeod, Acting Chaplain to the Forces, Cyprus. London: Waterlow & Sons, Limited. London Wall.

THIS history centur differe the p the mansi numer that i fluent which depen sheep mater of the somel book histor accou The t to St. to Ca Prior parisl histor with Haro havin prope thoso Haro to t indep fro nu Mass super estat Scula to W Lnco lord s oth er in his desce Wido have resid Mass "De Wyn to ass the b Hugl John Robe posse of th illus Duk the into and our men stru say part in f emb hist thor inve gart had phle Mas the the of educ by labo diffi

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Thankey ou for the great honor you have conferred upon me in permitting me to add you name to my list of subscribers

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obed't Servant
Ronald F. McLeod
late of Fincham, Norfolk

Henry Birkbeck Esqre.

House
Lynn
January 1883.

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LITERATURE. 24.1.83

MASSINGHAM PARVA: PAST AND PRESENT. By the Rev. Ronald F. McLeod, Acting Chaplain to the Forces, Cyprus. London: Waterlow & Sons, Limited, London Wall, 1882.

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notes, may be adopted as a pattern by all who de
the results of their researches in similar fields
may be read after they are published.

St. Margaret's House
Kings Lynn
22 January 1883.

Sir —

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 20th inst. enclosing Cheque for £1, for two copies of the Revd R. J. McLeod's work on "Massingham Parva", for which I thank you — The books have been sent off by Passenger train today addressed to you —

I am
Yours truly
Edward W. Walker

Mr. W. H. Bidwell
Norwich.

This book should be returned to the Library on or before the last date stamped below.

A fine of five cents a day is incurred by retaining it beyond the specified time.

Please return promptly.

Massingham Parva past and present
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